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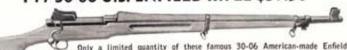
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ROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Veteran vs. Sullivan Law

The articles published month after month in Guns have been so consistently imaginative, exciting, authoritative, and well, just excellent in every way that they will eventually lead me to an advanced stage of frustration.

You see, I am a die-hard pistol enthusiast who is unable to get his hands on even an airpistol, much less the real product. Why? Because local and state laws prohibit the average citizen to possess pistols and revolvers, And I'm average. Sure, I can stop reading about guns and perhaps save my sanity, but I'd rather be nuts than miss even one issue of Guns. I can join some local gun club and attend all of its meetings for years and years and then, perhaps if I'm well liked by all the members including the building janitor, I would be considered fit to receive a pistol permit. If I had the time. All I have time for is a full day's work, college at night, a few hours of study, and six hours of sleep. I'll be darned if I'll spend the few hours of leisure that I manage to squeeze out of this schedule in listening to same pompous club secretary announcing the last minutes.

The U. S. Government spent a great deal of time and money to teach me to shoot a pistol effectively. In fact, it even went to great lengths to provide me with the proper live moving targets: mostly North Koreans. Now I hate like blazes to lose this hard earned talent because of some silly and non-effective gun laws. The morning papers prove every single day that there is no shortage of weapons among the underworld citizenry of the city. In fact, even the younger elements seem well heeled. No doubt, with little effort, I too could get my hands on one of these "hot but since I enjoy the status of an honest lawful citizen this method is and always will be out. Frankly, I'm up against it.

I sincerely hope that this letter will be published for it may help arouse the sleeping pen hands of other weaponless pistol enthusiasts. Perhaps if we make enough noise the sleeping councilmen down at city hall may take another look at our gun laws.

Please keep the present high standard of your magazine. It's just wonderful.

> Ray Zanon New York City

In Any Language: Excellent!

Your magazine: Ausgezeichnet!!

Certain articles naturally appeal to me better than others, but the variety of subject matter offered is excellent. Every time I get the magazine, I can rest assured that I will find some information in it worth much more than the price of the single copy. I've got

no beef, except: don't let the ads drown out the features.

You not only have a very fine magazine, but also a very good staff. Not too long ago I asked for some information regarding a Hopkins & Allen 12 ga, double. The detailed answer I received truly amazed me. I would at this time like to thank Mr. W. B. Edwards for the answers and suggestions he sent me. He is no doubt a man who knows his trade. I was going to tell you the above a long time ago, but I never got around to write.

The only way I see that I can repay you, is that I keep buying your magazine, and never fear, I will!

> Edward Sikula Nelson, B. C., Canada

Shotguns for Big Game

Your "How Good are Shotguns for Big Game?" is very interesting for French shooters, because big game, mostly boars, is generally hunted with smooth bores in France. The slugs are not of the pattern of the Federal slugs described in Guns magazine. There are "cylindro ogival" slugs, type J R, and "helice" slugs, type "Stedenbach," for choked barrels, and the old round bullet is used in cylinder bores.

From your article, it appears that groups with all those slugs are pretty similar with analagous cartridges. But it seems to me that a spherical slug 20 bore in a heavy one-barreled gun of cylinder bore, with a heavy loading and a speed of 1400 feet per second, can outshoot the "Federal" slug, though the groups in your Browning and your repeater are very good for smooth bores.

I am not of your belief on buckshot-the 9 balls is a very bad loading, which scatters widely, and is very dangerous for hounds and human beings. A boar of 150 pounds can run with 10 or 15 buckshot in him for hours, and die tomorrow. More boars are injured and hounds killed with buckshot than with any other loading. For game such as whitetail deer, it appears to me that shot pellets of 4 or 5 mm, or .177 caliber, can kill them properly at 40 yards. I have seen this with Sika deer which are as big as Virginia whitetail.

If you test round bullet cartridges I would be very glad to know what groups you obtain. The round bullet is old-fashioned because most barrels are choked, and it is heavy in 12 gauge for high velocity. But our grandfathers made very good shooting with this slug in long guns, and it is probably the best projectile in smooth bored barrels for speeds above 1200 feet per second. Round bullets must exactly fit the gauge of the gun. Weight of round bullet in 20 gauge is 4/5 ounce or so.

> Dr. Menager Machecoul, France

SHOOTING NEWS

San Sebastian, Spain. Carola Mandel won the woman's championship in livepigeon shooting in the Grand Prix of San Sebastian. Killing 15 out of 15 birds,
the Chicago scattergunner beat a field of leading European women shooters
including the present world's champion Maria Villada. . . . Future generations
may use the adjective "she's a Carola Mandel" and wonder who Annie Oakley
ever was.

Stockholm, Sweden. The northland's iron man of shooting, Torsten Ullman, scored wins in major European shoots. In Stockholm Ullman rang up 568 over the International pistol course, scoring 95-96-98-95-93-91. . . In the Budapest shoot which followed, he out-shot everyone including the Russians, tallying 562. Soviet shooter Umarov was second with 551 and Dorin (USSR) came in third, 548. A new Russian shooter, Gyomin, shot 547. . . Yasinski and Weinstein, sort of "triple threat men" of Russian shooting circles, did not appear at the Budapest shoot. . . In the same match Nazanov of Russia shot 296-296 and Cerkazov fired 293-295, both in rapid. . . . Hungarian pistolman Gyonyoru pushed close behind with 290-290 rapid fire. . . . Ullman later shot a high of 562 at the Helsinki, Finland, shoot.

Oakland, Calif. A big turnout typical of these west coast matches showed up for the Oakland Pistol Club's recent match. A total of 204 entrants from all over the golden state took aim at the elusive ten rings over the six matches to post some top scores for the season. . . . Expert W. Markell shot in the "open" class to win the CF Camp Perry match and a gold medal firing 98-98-97 for 293. Pushing second in the open was W. Thomas who shot 99, a possible, and then dropped six points for 293 and a gold medal. K. Kolb dropped one point below the leaders for third and a gold medal in the open. . . Top experts for one-two-three were C. Clayton, 290, J. Bellera, 287, and S. Reinhard, 285. Expert Reinhard also took high honors in the cap-and-ball shoot, master class, with 97. . . . Low man on the open totem pole was O. Jarman with a 263, only a fair score, but he made it with the .45 in the center fire match which is good shooting.

Moscow, Russia. The Soviet equivalent of our Camp Perry finished in a blaze of glory and renown for many sports champions. Called "Spartakiad of the Peoples of USSR," the event was closely watched by shooting observers interested in the Australian Olympics. I. Isayev won the coveted scroll and title of Champion of the USSR and Spartakiad in shooting. . . First place shooting on the International silhouette pistol course rapid fire was taken by Evgenii Cherkasov of Moscow, who violated all the precepts of relaxed shooting stance to fire a sensational record of 591 x 600. The young Muscovite, whose hair stands up as if he were shooting in a strong wind, wore the usual Russian leather jacket loosely belted, and held his left hand in his patch pocket while shooting. Cherkasov tips his body sharply to the rear and strains his jaw against his right shoulder in firing. He used a new Russian match automatic pistol with a free-pistol type of grip that nearly surrounds his shooting hand. The small-bore pistol resembles a conventional long-barreled automatic in slide and barrel design. There the resemblance stops. The frame is inverted and the cases fall out of the "top" of the slide in firing with the barrel line about an inch below the line of forefinger. A truss extends upward from frame and barrel muzzle to support a long sighting rod, which carries front ramp sight and runs to the solid frame forward of the hand grip. The clip magazine detaches from the top of the pistol and is built into the gun frame about two inches forward of the trigger guard. The trigger is adjustable to a feather touch. Cherkasov used this upside-down pistol in 25-meter shooting. . . In the gruelling 50-meter kneeling position, A. Plotko from Belorussia fired his heavy thumb-hole Russian-made Olympic rifle to score a nearly perfect 396 x 400. Plotko's iron sighted .22 was equipped with an aperture front sight and micrometer rear sight of Lyman type, with a rubber eye cup. Action was the standard Russian match .22 with heavy octagon receiver, affording great rigidity to the barrel and action assembly. . . . Using an identical doubletrigger thumb-hole rifle, small bore sharpshooter Rafael Ananikian from Georgian SSR shot better than the world's record at 50 and 100 meters prone, scoring 596 x 600. . . Running deer events, seldom seen in the United States, were an important feature of the recent Russian shoot styled along International lines. Over the course of 50 single shots at the running deer, first place was won by Oleg Zakurenov, 214 out of a possible 250. On both the 50 single shot course and the 25 double shot course, first place and champion of the USSR and Spartakiad fell to the machine-gun-like ability of V. Romanenko from the Ukraine. . . Romanenko and Zakurenov used custom-modified Ross straight-pull rifles with adjustable butt plates and micrometer sights for the rapid fire shooting.

Camp Perry, Ohio. One of the nation's most coveted rifle titles fell to Marine S/Sgt. James E. Hill of Portland, Indiana. Firing the M-1, Hill set a new record for the service rifle championship, 634 x 650. Looks like that Marine Corps green is replacing Army browns at Perry. . . . Connecticut shooters turned in good results at the Nationals. During the small bore matches 28 Nutmeg shooters competed. Shooting as a sharpshooter, Priscilla Haig of Middletown, Conn., took home 32 awards. . . . Don Dobras of Stratford, Conn., won a place award and John Crowley won three or four place awards.

Coral Gables, Florida. Down at the southern side of the country nearly 30 pistoleers showed up for the August shoot at the Coral Gables Police Pistol club match. . . Guess the small line-up was due to some of the shooters being away at Perry. Still, some top shooting was done by such paper punchers as Ken Cowan who scored 1666 grand total, plenty high in any book. . . Scores really revealed the difference in shootability between .22, CF and .45 - Cowan's tallies were .22 - 570, CF - 555, .45 - 541. . . First expert E. Prescott took home a gold trophy but far behind Cowan's 1666 with a 1628. . . One rose showed up among the thorns, lady marksman (markswoman?) Joanne Sievers who shot well in the .22 and CF matches, for 530 .22 and a silver trophy, and 474 CF aggy and another silver trophy.

St. Louis, Missouri. The exclusive "2600 Club" got a new member and the Big Six of pistoldom got fair warning of a new contender for their laurels when Lt. Dave Cartes turned in a fat round 2600 to top 115 registered shooters at the Greater St. Louis Revolver Club's 12th annual shoot at their range. The score set a new record for Lt. Cartes and also for the range. In the .22 Rapid Fire, Cartes fired a 200 × 24 possible, only one "×" below Sgt. Joe Benner's formidable Rapid Fire Service Record of 200 × 25. Cartes swept the sub-aggregates with 858 for the .45, 857 in the center-fire, and 885 with the .22. • . • Proving that even high scores can't win when a good shooter gets hot, L. Lewis of Ft. Knox, Ky., had to be content with a gold in the Masters' Aggregate for his high 2563. Gil Hebard of Knoxville, Ill., was High Civilian and third in the match with 2559, one point over Sgt. Paul Spavor of the St. Louis Police. High Team aggregate went to the Ft. Campbell Blue Team with 3385, the second consecutive win on the three-leg Anheuser-Busch trophy for this high scoring team composed of K. Lohman, D. Cartes, J. Kurtz, J. Allis, W. Oakley.

TRIGGER TALK

FOR THIS December issue GUNS' staff have assembled a highly controversial but factual package of gun lore for your entertainment. Larry F. Moore's story on accuracy of cheap .22 rifles will be an eye-opener to tyro and expert alike. A 400-possible score with a \$16 rifle is but one of the amazing results of his tests, says the Aberdeen Proving Grounds small arms technical expert. Particularly for Christmas gift-time, Moore's advice not to underrate the low-priced .22's is timely.

Adventure, action, and factual gun dope combined with a lightness of touch and humor spark shooting editor Colonel Charles Askins' first story from the far corner of the world, Indo-China. There he has met a Vietnamese sportsman who hunts 52 weeks in the year, and whom Askins calls "Hunting King of the Orient." His reasons for styling his eastern friend thus are backed up by the impressive tally of big game fallen before the nimrod's guns.

For western fans, noted western author Stanley Vestal's story of "How Good Were Indians As Shooters?" answers many controversial questions about Indian guns and Indian marksmanship. With cold mathematics, the University of Oklahoma professor throws new light on Indian skill with firearms.

For shotgunners, America's leading lady of the traps graces the pages of Guns this issue with her warm and human story on "Shotgunning Is a Family Sport." Carola Mandel's article, co-authored by her husband Colonel Leon Mandel, who has just been reelected vice president of the National Skeet Shooting Association, makes a strong argument in favor of shooting as recreation which can really be enjoved by the whole family.

One of the old West's more modern judges, Don Martin of Lewiston, Idaho, renews the perennial word-fight on the merits of the single-action type of handgun. Judge Martin, who is as slick with a gun as some of those on whom he has lowered the bar of justice, puts the case bluntly by claiming that the Single Action is a perfected form of machine, not a primitive weapon at all, as some have called it.



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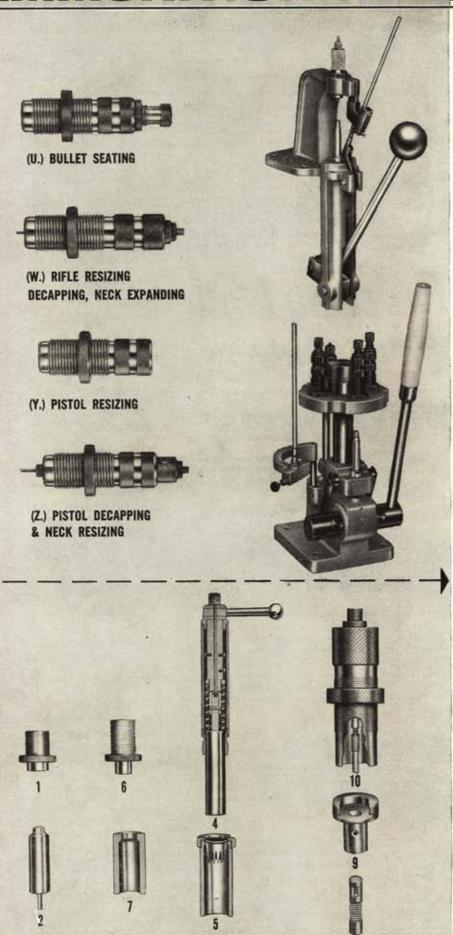
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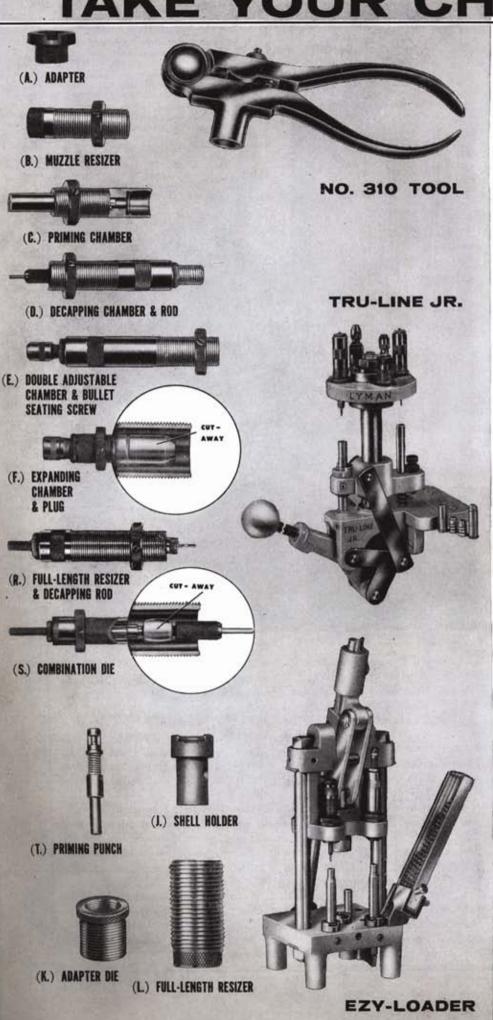
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By GEN. MARK W. CLARK President, The Citadel



Among the prized keepsakes in the study of my home at The Citadel are several rifles, shotguns and handguns. Among them is a Smith & Wesson .45 revolver. It is my favorite because it has been a faithful companion since the very beginning of my Army career.

When I went to France with the A.E.F. as a young captain of infantry in the spring of 1918, this revolver was given to me by a member of my family. I carried it throughout World War I. I wore it when I was wounded in the Vosges Mountains, and I remember being worried when I did not see it on the stretcher on which I was evacuated to the rear by the French. However, I recovered it quickly.

This revolver continued as a prized possession in the interval between wars. During World War II and again in Korea, I wore it much of the time, though alternating occasionally with a smaller .38 automatic. It was during World War II that the Smith & Wesson acquired handsome new grips made of tooled silver, with a cabalistic design representing my initials. These grips were presented by a friend.

In war and in peace, this Smith & Wesson has been with me, and I still use it often in marksmanship practice. I prefer this gun because I know and like it; it feels 'right' in my hand. Its only 'duty' now is peaceful, but it remains my favorite weapon because I know it is trustworthy.

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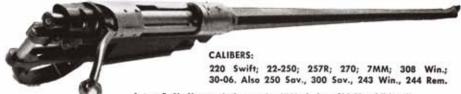
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GUNS in the NEWS

Forty-six years ago Bill Hulet, at the age of 12, brought down his first bear on the lower Olympic Peninsula of the State of Washington. Since then he slain from 40 to 70 bears a season—and more than 100 a year since 1953—for a total bag of some 3,000 bears, a record probably unmatched in this country.

0 0 0

John Thornie won the expert junior rifleman award at London, Canada, with an average of 95 out of 100. Up until five months ago, he had fired nothing but an air rifle. John is 7 years old.

0 0 0

Michel Richard was arrested for shooting at a helicopter near Paris and damaging one of its rotor blades. Monsieur Richard's explanation for his act: he wanted to keep the copter from disturbing nesting pheasants.

0 0 0

Charged with violating the city's firearms law by blasting away with his shotgun, Cordie Gethers of Newark, N. J., explained that his dog was so hard of hearing that was the only way he could summon him.

000

Questioned about possible negligence after a brush fire broke out in his vicinity, a hunter told Florida state conservation officers the following story: "It really wasn't my fault. I was burning some trash, very carefully too, when this rabbit ran through the fire, caught fire and ran into the woods, setting them on fire."

0 0 0

Dob Gill of Conway, Ark., started on a duck hunting trip and spotted a duck on his front lawn. He fired away and got the duck but sprayed his house with shot, breaking a window and peppering the wall so it required painting. Undaunted, he went on with his trip, fell into should-deep water and stayed wet and cold all afternoon—and got no more ducks. "I should have stayed in bed," he declared mournfully.



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DECEMBER, 1956

MAGAZINE

VOL. II, NO. 12-24

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COVER

Combining two themes from this issue of GUNS is Larry Moore's left-handed Dunlap match rifle. Moore used the precision Olympic weapon as a "control" in running accuracy tests on cheap .22 rifles. In addition, the Dunlap action is one of a mere handful of southpaw rifles made by gunsmiths today, discussed in "Why No Lefthanded Guns" on Page 24.



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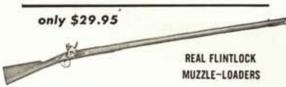
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Webley, converted to .45 ACP complete with 2 ball moon clips, "Good" – \$14.95; "Very Good" – \$16.95

Ammo: Caliber .45 ACP, 230 gr. 100 rds .- 56

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The famous fast-action hand gun used so effectively by the British commandos. Shoots U.S. made .38 S&W cartridges. Six shot. Double action only. Five inch barrel. Dull black, battle finish. Wt. 27½ oz. Fine balance. Man size grip. Perfect for off hand shooting and home defense.

Enfield Commando, very good -\$17.50

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Military model reconditioned and re-blued. Length -1034". Barrel-5". Wt. 31 oz. Holds 6 shots. Sights, front-fixed; rear-square notch. Cal.-.38 S&W (not .38 special). Walnut grips. Condition very good to excel-.....\$29.95

AMMO: (See above, under Enfield Revolver.)

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GENUINE REMINGTON ROLLING BLOCK RIFLES

Winfield now has the last known supply of these famous, much sought after weapons. Accurate and effective for big game or target, their smooth dependable actions are used in many fine hand-smithed specials. Rifle, Caliber 7 mm (Wt.-9 lbs.; Barrel -30"; Overall-45"; Grad. Rear Leaf Sight)

good to fair cond ... \$16.95

Ammo: German Military 7 mm rimless, 60 rds. in clips - \$5.50 U.S. made 7 mm sporting (175 gr.) 20 rds. - \$4.30

Bayonet with metal scabbard - \$2.50

Free history of the Remington Rolling Block sent with rifle.

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Current rifle of the British Army, Navy and Air Force. Caliber 303 British with 10 round magazine. Has an extra heavy barrel for perfect shooting balance and accuracy. An ideal hunting or target rifle in fine condition.



Specifications:

Overall 44¾"-barrel 26"; Magazine 10 rds.; Sights: Protected blade front sight, adjustable aperture (Peep) rear sight. 4-groove barrel.

Condition:

Very Good to Excellent throughout. Reblued.

Ammunition:

.303 Military Target (174 gr.) per 100 \$7.50 .303 Hunting Custom Loads (150 gr. or 180 gr.) Sierra bullet, lead tipped......

20 rounds \$3.50



SWISS VETTERLI RIFLES

Latest model Swiss Vetterlis in very good to "mint" condition. Turnbolt action. Thirteen shot (tubular magazine). Caliber-41, Swiss r.J.; Length-52"; Barrel-33.2"; Wt.-about 10 lbs.; Rifting-4-groove, 1:26" turit. Bayoners approx. 2 ft. long made in Neuhausen, Switzerland-with 18½" sabre blade and saw tooth back. Very rare.

Swiss Vetterli Rifle. \$13.95 Bayonet with leather scabbard, metal tips (sold only with rifle). \$3.95

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MOST POPULAR RIFLE OF ALL

LOW-PRICED .22'S, ALTHOUGH LACKING IN FINISH, ARE ALMOST AS ACCURATE AS COSTLY BULL GUNS IN MACHINE REST TESTS

By LARRY F. MOORE

THE LOWLY .22 rim fire rifle in its ordinary cheap dress is a Cinderella gun. Scoffed at by most shooters with a few "possibles" to their credit, .22's still prove year after year to be the "most popular belle of the ball." The .22 is the most-bought rifle in America and particularly this time of the year when Christmas giving is in the air. The probability is that .22 production exceeds all other calibers combined and yet there are those who sneer at the accuracy of the store-bought .22 that sells for less than \$50.

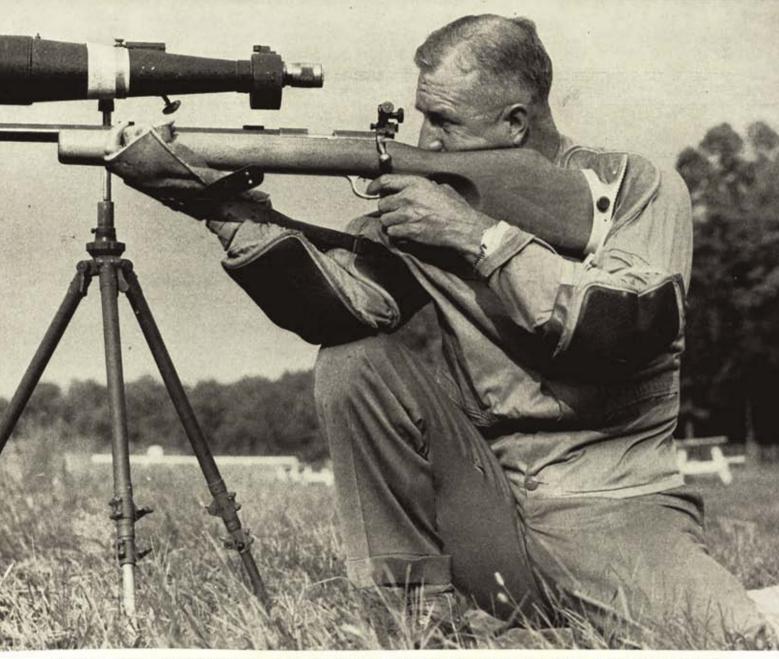
What are the facts about the comparitive merits of the cheap .22's as against the precision-built match .22's?

While shooters generally expect a high level of performance when the rifle cost is high and low level when price is low, this is not necessarily true in the case of the .22. This common assumption underrates some of the best buys in .22 rifles. The facts are that the lower-priced .22's show generally excellent design, good materials and adequate workmanship. From shooting tests made of 17 rifles, a cross-section of the small bore field, I discovered that the cheaper .22's have a high level of accuracy.

Of course, only highly-skilled shoot-



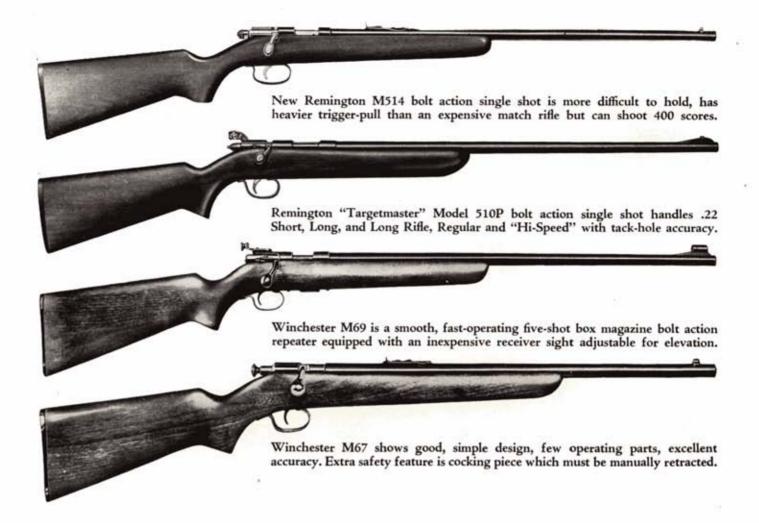
Match quality score of 400-14X at 50 yards was made by author Larry Moore on standard smallbore target with light-weight M514 Remington firing Western Super Match ammunition. Such accuracy is remarkable from \$16.75 rifle.



Shooting custom-made left-handed Dunlap rifle as "control," Larry Moore aims at target in tests of low-priced rifles. Dunlap has receiver and bolt similar to M52 Winchester, Canjar trigger, Eric Johnson barrel and thumb-hole stock.



Savage Model 6 Deluxe tubular magazine repeater has ample accuracy for hunting and plinking and can even score well in match target competition. Light in weight, it still scored 258 x 300 for second place in recent club match.



ers would be able to take full advantage of the accuracy potential in some of the cheaper .22's tested and then only when firing from the prone position or from a rest. Few men who buy a rifle over the counter ever realize its full accuracy because the sights are seldom adjusted properly. None of the sights on the rifles tested was adjusted properly as it came from the factory. Some sights were so far off that the rifle grouped several feet from the aiming point at 50 yards.

All rifles gave adequate accuracy for hunting or plinking. Even the rifle which gave the poorest average accuracy, the M6 Savage, took second place in a club championship in 1955 with 258 x 300 on an average windy day. The winning score, 260, was made with an H & R bolt action.

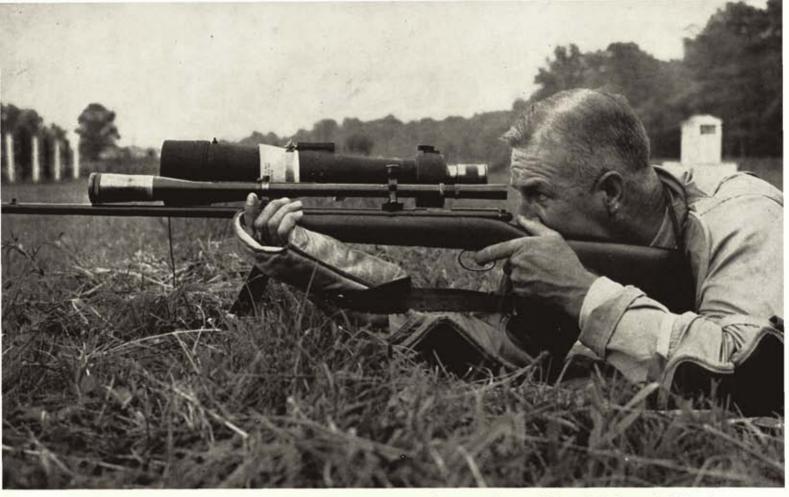
Seventeen rifles of various types widely sold in the U.S. were inspected and tested for Guns. All rifles were mass-production models currently being made except the custom-made Dunlap match rifle, the pre-war Walther Sportmodel single shot, and the discontinued M35A Mossberg. The rifles fall roughly into sporting and target classes. The sporting models included single shots, repeaters of various types, and self-loaders. The target rifles include training and match types.

Each rifle was inspected before firing to note design, materials, and workmanship. Each rifle was then subjected to accuracy tests using Remington Match, Western Mark III Super Match, and Western Xpert regular cartridges. Firing was from a machine rest, or from a bench rest by an expert rifleman, using telescopic sights on a 100-yard enclosed range. Each rifle was fired four ten-shot groups with each brand of ammunition. An extreme spread measurement in inches was taken of the two outside shot-holes in each group.

The difference between the best accuracy obtained with the match rifles and that from several of the lowestpriced .22's was negligible. Only a highly-skilled shot could observe the difference in firing from the shoulder without using a rest. Several of the cheaper rifles gave as good accuracy with match ammunition as the match rifles gave with the regular brand.

For instance, I shot the M514 Remington, one of the cheapest and lightest .22's made, with a 20X Lyman Super Targetspot scope on it. From the prone position at 50 yards on the NRA tournament target, a score of 200—14X was made. The rifle was later fired over the Dewar course. At 50 yards it scored 200—10X and at 100 yards, 200—12X. The 10-ring on the 50-yard small bore target is .89" diameter, and that on the 100-yard bull is 2". The M514 Remington weighs only 4.6 pounds and was more difficult to hold steady than a heavier target rifle. The trigger pull was heavy and it was more difficult to shoot than an expensive match rifle. But it is capable of producing 400-possible scores; and it sells for \$16.75—less than the rear sight on the expensive target rifle.

Another cheap rifle, the M521T Remington, was fired over the Dewar course when a tricky wind was in effect. Factory sights, a Lyman 57 rear and a post front, were used. The 50-yard score was 196-9X and that at 100 yards was 196-7X. The M521T was surprisingly easy to



Firing from prone position, Larry Moore uses tournament-type equipment as he puts light-weight low-priced Remington M514 through tests. "Fired from shoulder," Moore says, "only top expert could tell difference from match rifle."

hold in spite of its light weight of 6.3 pounds. The trigger pull was also heavier than that desired for target shooting, but the scores produced would be higher than average in most competitions, considering the wind conditions in effect at the time of firing.

The lower-priced rifles actually show better engineering design than the most expensive factory models. Since for inexpensive mass production a rifle must have a small number of parts, the resulting simplicity in design is also an advantage to the shooter. It means more reliable operation and better endurance.

Good, simple design was shown in the Winchester M67 single shot. This rifle has no receiver. The barrel is machined at the rear to hold the bolt. One operating part which serves as an extractor, ejector, bolt stop and safety (to keep the bolt closed when cocked) is assembled into a cut on the under side of the barrel. The trigger pivots on a pin in the stock. The extremely simple bolt assembly has a cocking piece which must be retracted manually for firing. The safety rotates to prevent forward movement of the firing pin.

The M514 Remington is also extremely simple. One part pinned in the receiver serves as a trigger, sear, bolt stop, and safety. Both Mossberg and Harrington & Richardson bolt action rifles contain more parts than the Winchester 67 and Remington 514, but their bolts are simpler and can be disassembled without using tools.

Remington uses a large number of similar parts on several different rifles. In the 510, 511, 512, 513, and 521 rifles the receivers and many (Continued on page 56)

ACCURACY TESTS ON .22 RIFLES

Average extreme spread at 100 yards for four ten-shot groups for each lot of ammunition is given in inches.

		Group Size							
Rifle	Sight	Fired From	Super Match	Rem. Match	Expert	Average			
Sporting Rifles									
Bolt-Action Repeating									
Remington M513S	4X Mossberg	B.R.*	1.87	1.57	2.40	1.95			
Winchester M69	12X Lyman	B.R.	2.32	2.42	2.60	2.45			
Bolt-Action Single-Shot									
Marlin M100	12X Lyman	B.R.	2.27	2.46	2.82	2.52			
Remington M514	12X Lyman	B.R.	1.49	3.64	2.78	2.64			
Remington M510P	12X Lyman	B.R.	1.88	2.57	4.53	2.99			
Winchester M67	12X Lyman	B.R.	2.26	3.61	3.55	3.14			
H & R M750	12X Lyman	B.R.	4.73	3.88	4.54	4.38			
Winchester M67 Boy's Self-Loading	12X Lyman	B.R.	3.11	6.63	3.49	4.41			
Savage M6	J2.5 Weaver	B.R.	3.59	6.05	4.78	4.81			
Target Rifles									
Match Rifles									
Dunlap (Eric Johnson bbl.)		M.R.*	1.15	0.95	1.71	1.27			
Winchester M52C (Bull wt. bbl.)		M.R.	1.07	1.12	1.64	1.28			
Remington M40-X (Heavy bbl.)		M.R.	1.12	1.40	2.17	1.56			
Training Rifles									
Mossberg M35A	12X Lyman	B.R.	1.53	1.65	1.90	1.69			
Remington M521T	12X Lyman	B.R.	1.46	2.20	2.06	1.91			
Winchester M75	12X Lyman	B.R.	1.46	3.38	2.11	2.32			
Waither Sportmodel		M.R.	1.76	3.26	2.22	2.41			
Mossberg M144 *Bench Rest and Mach	4X Mossberg	B.R.	2.40	5.27	3.60	3.76			

HOW GOOD WERE INDIANS AS SHOOTERS!



Proud Cheyenne warrior pictured in 1875 apparently wore little more than brass-frame Model '66 carbine in battle.

NEW DATA SHOWS PLAINS INDIANS,
WITH INFERIOR RIFLES AND LESS
AMMUNITION, WERE MORE DEADLY
IN COMBAT THAN WHITE SOLDIERS

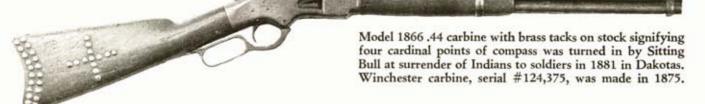
By STANLEY VESTAL

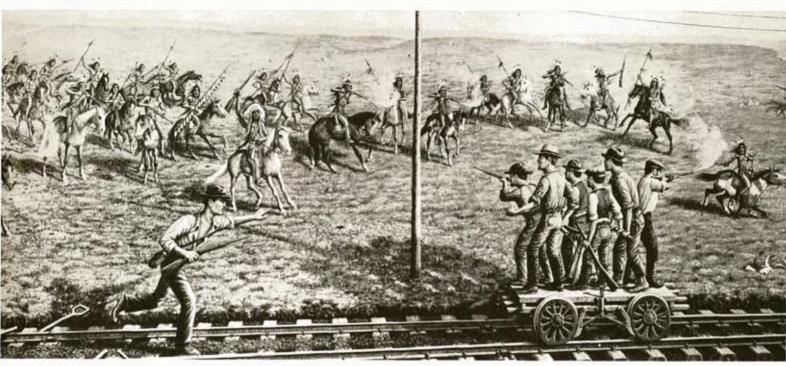
The controversy has raged down through the years like a prairie fire—could the Indians shoot as well as the soldiers, and how many had repeaters and better guns than the soldiers? And like smoke from a prairie fire, misinformation and cloudy claims have obscured the facts.

Legend and lore have made it appear that every dog soldier west of the Mississippi had a repeater and a saddle bag full of cartridges. Today's western fan is instilled with the idea that renegade whites were constantly running repeaters to the Indians, although historians have been unable to uncover any mass traffic in Winchesters between the New Haven factory and the Indians. However, old photos show Indian chiefs armed with Winchesters, and the statistics of Indian fights of the last century seem to show that the Indian was a pretty good marksman. Usually the soldiers suffered far more casualties than the red men.

"The Indians were all armed with repeaters," is one claim made about the Custer massacre. Of major interest then is the matter of how many Indians had repeaters and the answer is, not many. Numbers and time defeated Custer. More than 1,000 fighting Indians were battling on the bluffs June 25-26 in 1876 when Yellow Hair went down. But the number of soldiers engaged was only 204. Only 16 Indians were killed, while the 204 were wiped out by superior numbers.

Major Reno in the Big Horn bottoms had his hands full June 25 with another 1,000 Sioux. About 150 soldiers stood off repeated attacks of nearly ten times that number





Railroad gangs armed with single-shot Springfields from Union Pacific's arsenal freight car had to drop their tools and fight Indians on the plains. War parties were frequently repulsed because they lacked modern firearms.

of Indians. Eight Indians were killed; 32 whites. Two Indians were known to be wounded, for seven soldiers shot. But it was not a massacre, and Reno's outfit survived the assault. In the battle of the Rosebud on June 17, 1876, 1,000 Indians and 1,300 whites fought. With more even odds, the casualties were nearly even. Ten white men and eleven redskins bit the dust. Five Indians were wounded; 21 whites.

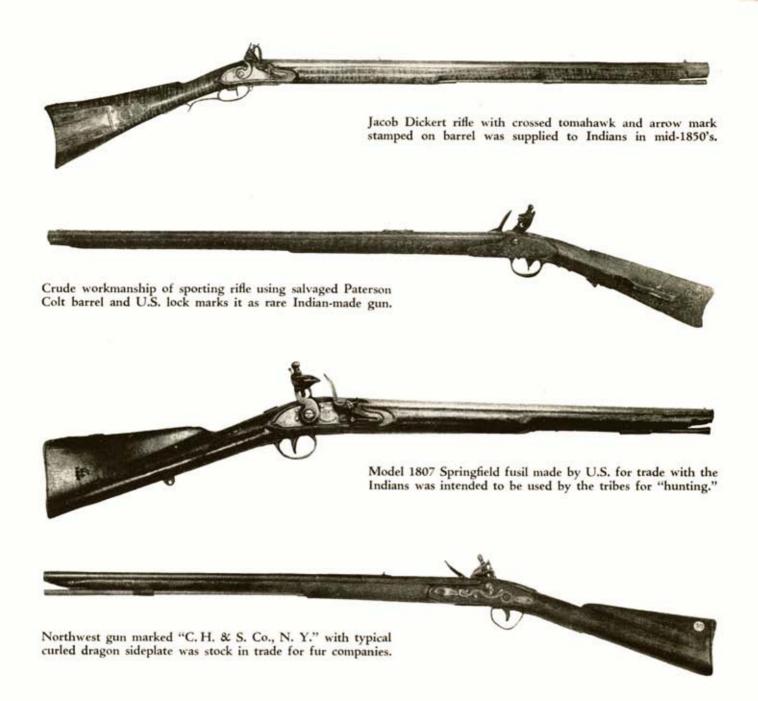
The statistics go on, through battle after battle. Other than the often astonishingly low number of casualties on either side, they reveal an important trait of the Sioux campaigns. The Indians, like Napoleon, fought as a rule only when they had the advantage of numbers. They fought two to one or better. Figures of losses in 12 major engagements of the Indian wars reveal that the Sioux killed about five times as many white soldiers as they lost Indians killed, and wounded approximately four times as many whites as the Long Knives wounded Indians. They did this with hardly half enough guns to go around under the best conditions, and with no cannon at all.

How, then, did the notion arise that the Indians were all armed with Winchesters? What firearms did they have? How good was their marksmanship? How did they handle guns in battle, on the hunt, or in target practice if any? What sort of care did they give firearms, and could they reload used shells?

In his report to the Secretary of War in 1876, Gen. George Crook is quoted as saying: "When the Sioux In-

COMPARISON OF INDIAN, WHITE CASUALTIES

	No. Indians Ingaged	Approx. No. Whites Engaged	Ind.	lled Wh.		inded Wh.
Pumpkin Buttes August, 1865	56	7	0	3	0	1
Fetterman Massacre December 21, 1866	2000	81	14	81	3	0
Wagon Box Fight August 2, 1867	1000	32	6	6	6	0
Baker Fight August 14, 1872	500	400	1	1	6	4
Reynolds Fight March 17, 1876	200	400	1	4	1	6
Battle of the Rosebud June 17, 1876	1000	1300	11	10	5	21
Reno in the Big Horn Bottoms, June 25, 1876	1000	150	8	32	2	7
Custer Fight on the Bluff June 25-26, 1876	1000	204	16	204	?	0
Reno Besieged on Bluffs June 25-26, 1876	1000	381	2	18	1	45 (plus)
Slim Buttes September 9, 1876	1000	2000	10	3	2	14
Otis and Sitting Bull October 15–16, 1876	300	196	1	1	2	3
Miles and Sitting Bull October 21, 1876	800	398	0	0	0	0
Totals 1	0,356	5,249	69	383	28	102



dian was armed with a bow and arrow he was more formidable, fighting as he does most of the time on horseback, than when he got the old-fashioned muzzle-loading rifle. But when he came into possession of the breech-loader and metallic cartridge, which allows him to load and fire from his horse with perfect ease, he became at once 10,000 times more formidable."

Gen. Crook added, "I have seen our friendly Indians, riding at full speed, shoot and kill a wolf, also on the run, while it is a rare thing that our troops can hit an Indian on horseback, though the soldier may be on his feet at the time."

Gen. Nelson A. Miles spoke of the Indian's proficiency with improved arms in these words: "The Indian's marksmanship is very accurate within the range to which he is accustomed in killing game, say within 200 yards. But in the use of the long-range rifle, where he must take account of the elevated sights, the distance and the effect of the wind upon the flight of the bullet, he is inexperienced and

in no way a match for his more intelligent enemy."

Though Indians occasionally staged shooting matches, they did not waste their precious ammunition in target practice. Fixed ammunition was so hard to get that the Indians all learned to save and reload and reprime empty cartridge shells. Hunting as they did almost daily, they had plenty of practice making their living.

Indians took good care of what weapons they were able to get, protecting them with fringed buckskin gun covers and using oil rendered from the leg bone of a deer.

Factual reports from the days of the Plains Indian Wars throw some light on the arms the Indians were using during their encounters with their enemies. At the treaty council at Fort Laramie in 1851, though the Sioux far out-numbered the Snakes or Shoshones, they dared not attack their old enemies. Famed westerner Jim Bridger supplied the answer when he declared: "The Sioux see how the Snakes are armed. I got them guns for 'em, and they are good ones." Every man of the Snakes had a good rifle, the best



Apache chief Geronimo (extreme right) and son hold U.S. M1873 rifle and carbine, while two other braves of "Cherry Cows" (Chiricahua tribe) carry Winchesters, before their surrender to General George Crook in 1886.

of them probably Hawken rifles. But it is noted that "not one in a 100 of the Sioux had a gun."

But when the Prairie Sioux and Cheyenne 15 years later ambushed and destroyed Colonel W. J. Fetterman's command of 79 officers and men, and two civilians, only six of the dead soldiers showed gunshot wounds. Two of these men, whose wounds were in the temple and surrounded by powder marks, were thought to have committed suicide. Possibly the other four may have been hit by bullets from arms captured on the battleground, or wounded by their own comrades in the crossfire. When the relief party from the fort mounted the hill overlooking the scene of the massacre, the Indians challenged them to come down and fight. But the soldiers "heard no firing" for the Prairie Sioux were still armed with clubs, bows and lances. That was in December of 1866.

From then on the number of Indians possessing firearms steadily increased. In the fall of 1866 a law was passed "allowing any loyal citizen, or proper character, to trade with Indian tribes." Quantities of war surplus weapons reached the Western tribes. And in addition to arms they bought or took from enemies and stray white men, they received large handouts from government peace commissions.

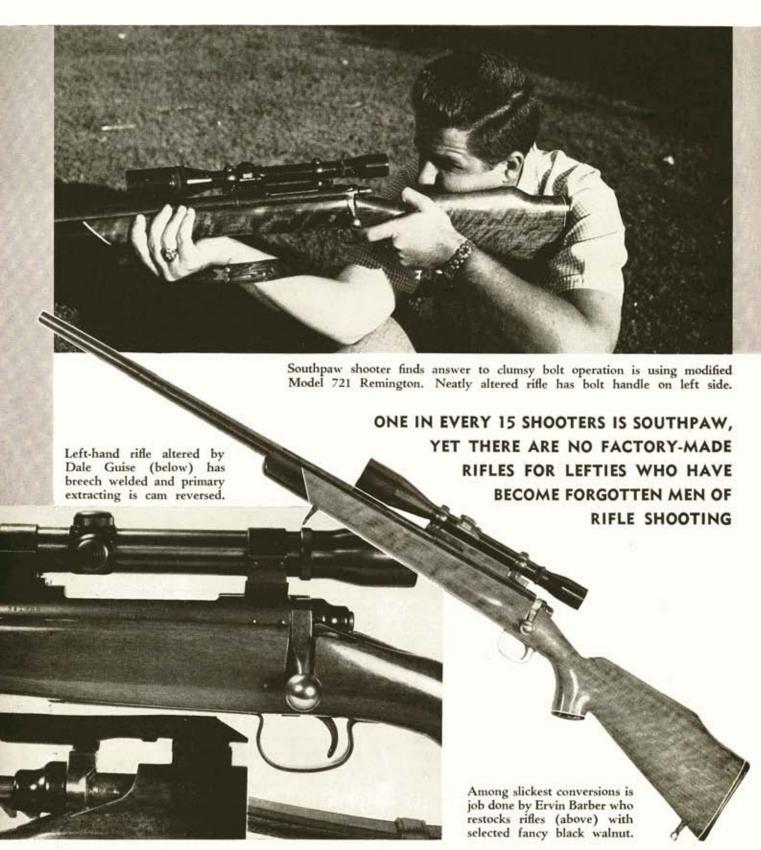
As early as 1807 Springfield Armory built a lot of short flintlock smoothbore carbines or "fusils" for Indian trade. Some were delivered by the Indian Department to various tribes for hunting use. Short smoothbores were also ordered by the American Fur Company, the Northwest Company, and the Hudson's Bay Company to exchange with the Indians for beaver and other valuable skins. These special muzzle-loading "northwest guns" have a distinctive dragon pattern side plate on the left of the stock.

When using a muzzle-loader on horseback, the Indian carried a mouthful of balls and a power horn. Pouring in the powder by guess, he spit a wet bullet into the muzzle and thumped the butt against the palm of his hand to settle the ball. It took skill and alertness (Continued on page 74)



Pawnee chief Blue Hawk, standing, wears soldiers' coat probably given to him by peace commission, while Coming-Around-With-The-Herd holds muzzle-loading rifle musket.

WHY NO



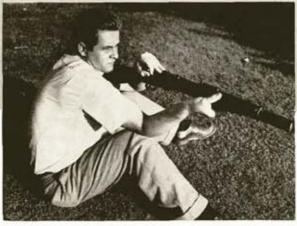
LEFT-HANDED GUNS



Scope-sighted bolt action is left-handed shooter's worst problem. Scope stands directly in line of his reach-over.



Custom-made rifle is the only answer for the left-handed bolt action adict.



Working iron-sighted regular rifle can be done left-handed but it is awkward for rapid fire.

By HOWARD R. REED

THE LEFT-HANDER, the poor old southpaw, is the forgotten man in rifle shooting. Nobody loves him—least of all, apparently, the gun manufacturers who might be expected to show some interest in a potential market of a million and a quarter gun users.

That's right; there are approximately 1½ million lefthanders actually shooting in the United States today. Of the more than 18 million hunters in the nation, one in 15 is left-handed. This adds up to about 1,200,000 hunters and there are many additional southpaws among the target shooters and plinkers. Yet there is not a single factory-built left-handed rifle on the market.

Why is the left-hander so sadly neglected?

Probably the first reason is that we left-handed people have lived all our lives in a right-handed world and have come to accept that handicap. We have become accustomed to making the best of right-handed tools, automobiles, writing methods, and all the implements of everyday living. We have learned to adapt ourselves, instead of demanding equipment adapted for us.

A second reason is that the need for left-handed guns has come upon us gradually. When lever action single-shots and repeaters were practically universal, guns were more or less ambidextrous. They could be worked easily enough by left-handers even though ejected cases arcing up past the shooter's eye or even into his face were a minor irritation. Even the bolt action rifle with iron sights could be reached across and operated by the left-hander, operated awkwardly it's true, but quite efficiently. The big problem came with the advent of the scope-sighted bolt action rifle. For the reach-across left-handed shooter, the scope stands directly in the path of his hand as he goes for the bolt handle.

Of course, every left-hander knows the answer to that complaint: "If the bolt action is awkward for you, why use a bolt action?"



But there are reasons for the popularity of the bolt action rifle, and those reasons appeal to the left-handed as well as to the right-handed shooter. Look at a typical fine bolt action rifle. Notice first the graceful one-piece stock. A rifle needs this type of stock to give it the rigidity necessary for consistent top accuracy. Rifles with twopiece stocks do very well for hunting, but they do not win bench rest matches. Too, the scope on the bolt action is mounted center and low, where it is most efficient and most easily used. The safety is on top, handy to your thumb, and very positive. The mechanism is simple and rugged. Two massive lugs lock the action immediately back of the cartridge. A large gas port and the root of the bolt handle give additional protection to the shooter. The firing pin has a short, fast fall. The trigger is adjustable in pull and travel and stays the way it is set.

This last item is of more importance than many shooters realize. The value of a crisp trigger, free from creep, can hardly be overemphasized. A good way to prove this to yourself is to shoot ten shots with a .30-06 that has a crisp trigger, then follow with ten more from a rifle that has a long creep in the trigger. The results will startle you.

Dragging ammunition costs into an argument about

left-handed shooters may seem irrelevant, but there is a connection. True, ammunition costs the right-hander just as much as it does the southpaw. But let's agree that, at present prices, Mr. Average can't afford to shoot a center-fire rifle enough times each year to be a real marksman. At 20 to 25 cents a shot, the necessary practice becomes prohibitive. The solution is to handload our own fodder, a solution which not only reduces the cost of shooting but gives better accuracy and makes our rifles more versatile.

But the lever action and autoloading pump rifles which are so popular with left-handed shooters do not take kindly to handloading. The lever action rifles lock at the rear of the breech-block. Under firing pressures, these actions "stretch" slightly and thereby stretch the cartridge cases. These cases must be full-length resized for reloading. This not only increases the labor of reloading; but the case brass becomes brittle from being worked and will crack at the head after a few reloadings. In theory, the Remington pumps and autoloaders and the Winchester Model 38 lever actions, all of which lock at the head of the bolt, should work well with neck-sized cartridges, but they don't. Chamber tolerances and lack of camming action in these rifles permit case expansion that requires full length resizing. This reload- (Continued on page 60)



SHOTGUNNING IS A FAMILY SPORT

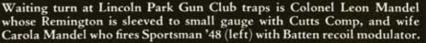
SKEET AND TRAP ARE SPORTS IN WHICH GIRLS AND CHILDREN CAN BE PARTICIPANTS AND NOT MERE SPECTATORS

By CAROLA MANDEL and COL. LEON MANDEL

OF ALL the shooting sports, from paper-punching with .22 short Olympic automatics to one-hole grouping with mammoth bench rest rifles, none is quite the family sport that the shotgun game is. Fun for the whole family runs like a consistent theme through the shotgun sport, one of the few forms of outdoor competition where there is almost true equality of sexes.

Whereas it is usually the lone pistoleer or rifleman who competes at the firing line at big meets, there are always plenty of "Mr. and Mrs." teams in scattergunning. Even "squaw camp" at the biggest of the rifle and pistol





competitions, Camp Perry, is principally for families of shooters rather than shooting families. But the turnout at the big annual skeet shoot at Waterford, Michigan, or the Vandalia, Ohio, trap tournament attests to the growing status of shotgunning as a family sport. Women and youngsters are there as participants rather than just spectators.

Husband and wife, son and daughter can and do often compete together or against one another. Every member of the family is equal on the skeet and trap field and there are many households in which shotgunning is a family affair. Certainly this is true in our family where the two of us find genuine enjoyment in our common liking for the shotgun game.

And it is true among so many other married couples that we meet in competition all over the country. We know dozens of couples who find the shotgunning game a real and important part of their marital happiness.

Among the first who come to mind are the Isetts of Kenosha, Wisconsin—Bill and his pretty wife, Dolly. They are a real shooting family in every sense of the term. They have a farm but they love shooting so much that they also operate a gun club in Kenosha. Both are crack shots and consistent winners on the range. Last year Dolly scored 93 X 100 at Vandalia to take the women's handicap trapshoot at the Grand American. Bill upheld America's honor in international shooting by winning the 1955 world championship live-bird shoot in Cairo.

That seems to be the usual story in shotgunning. When both husband and wife have a strong interest, they both turn out to be good shots—and the good marksmanship extends to the youngsters, too. Take the case of Dr. R. G. Lambert of San Diego, California. The doctor and his wife Marie as well as nine-year-old son Bill all fired in competition at Las Vegas, Nevada, last year. Bill was one of the youngest shooters at the meet and did quite well. Both he and his mother broke scores in the 90's for the first time.

Shooting together in skeet and trap is in marked contrast to so many men and women who are married but live much of their lives apart. The family spirit in shotgunning is in some ways, it seems to us, a sign of a truly happy marriage. Not that a girl marries a man who likes guns with any thought of taking up shooting or trying to share his enthusiasm; rather it is simply a matter of doing what comes naturally, as the song in the Annie Oakley musical went.

Many of the leading ladies in high over-all shotgun scor-





High-scoring father-and-son duo Al and Bobby Schuehle admire handsome medals awarded at the Third Fieldale Open skeet championships near Chicago. Typical shotgun event attracted many women shooters (right) as well as solos.

ing are so because they learned how to shoot from their husband. It was that way in our case. Suppose the colonel takes over here and explains just how it happened with us.

Carola took up shooting primarily to keep me company. When we were married, she had no idea that she would be involved in the sport. Until years after we were married, her target shooting was literally confined to clay ducks at fairs. Shooting galleries were always her weakness and I recall that at the New York World's Fair she shot for 90 minutes straight at the clay birds. It was one of those things where if you hit the target, you got the next round free. And Carola just couldn't stop hitting the target.

It was on an expedition to the Galapagos islands in 1941 that I gave her a small gauge shotgun to shoot some birds for the Museum of Natural History. She then started shooting seriously after the war and always insisted that she took it up to please me. Frankly I was pleased.

We feel that shotgunning is popular as a family sport because it has such high visual appeal. Firing a noisy, bigbore rifle or a kicking pistol at a target so small it can hardly be seen with the naked eye is one thing that cuts down on the appeal of those forms of target shooting. But the bright blue and yellow "birds." the usually park-like



Petite Mrs. Mandel manages to back up the big 12's to win consistently in scattergun competition all over the world.



Thrill of winning skeet trophies was doubled for H. B. Stowers by his wife's participation at Pinehurst Club, N. C.



Colonel and Carola Mandel who frequently shoot in husband-and-wife team matches enjoy sport as a family.



Young Tommy Forman who holds junior title won at Chicago Grand Championship has gone on crow hunts with his father, Edward W. Forman of Chicago, since he was six years old. Tommy has won many trophies and his 50-straight patch while enjoying the sport with his dad. Browning over-under is Tommy's favorite gun in the field.



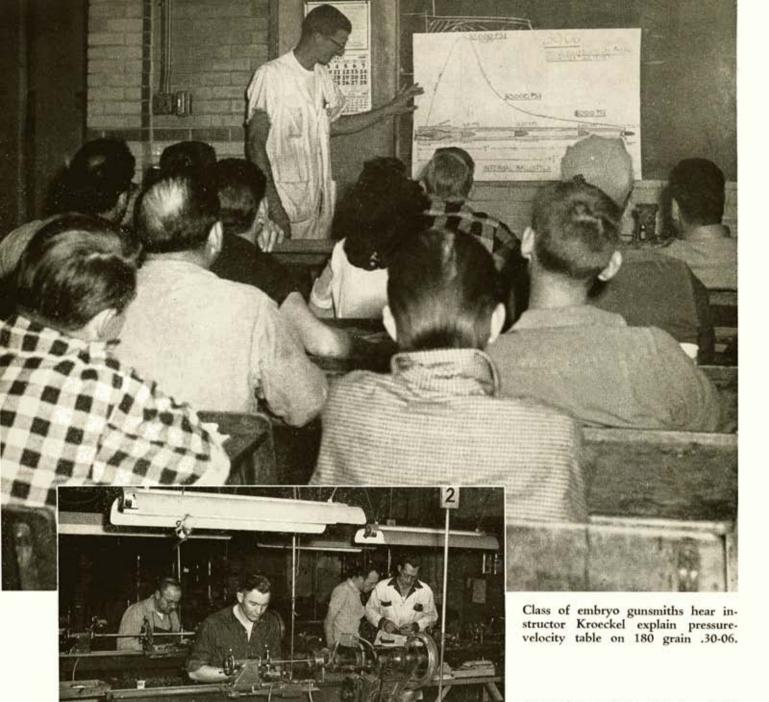
shotgun fields with shady verandas to the clubhouses, are calculated to make watching comfortable and to introduce the family to shotgunning pleasantly and in attractive surroundings. Frequently too, because the novice gunner is concentrating so completely in bringing the gun up and getting the target, the first round will end with an encouragingly high number of birds dusted into the blue. This brings a glimmer of hope to the heart of a beginner that he will eventually be able to master the challenge of the shotgunning game.

There are no special differences in guns and ammunition for "family shooting." One type of gun will be preferred by one shooter, and possibly another type by some other member of the family. And the fact of their difference will add interest to their shooting together. Massproduced pump and automatic shotguns do have an edge over some other guns in terms of economy, and they are not lacking in accuracy either.

While first cost is often lower than the over-under or fine single trap gun, the matter of stock fit is highly important. A small shooter, particularly a boy or girl, has just as much need for a gunstock of proper length and with the right pitch and drop as does an experienced trophy collector. But to saw off the fine stock on a costly gun is unfortunate. By using one of the trap or skeet models of standard guns, and bolting on an inexpensive standard butt stock altered to fit the small shooter, money can be saved that might profitably be spent on ammu
(Continued on page 63)

SCHOOL FOR GUNSMITHS





Close-tolerance lathe operation (left) is one of many skills required of budding gunsmiths by Colorado school.

Detroit "graduation" exercises? Yet the gunsmith does that in school, and builds complete guns from butt to muzzle throughout the rest of his working life.

I wanted to be a gunsmith, and decided that the best way to start was to go to school. There are not many schools which have courses about guns, but at the Lassen Junior College in Shasta, California, the Pennsylvania Gunsmith School in Pittsburgh, and the Colorado School of Trades in Denver, you can learn the craft. I chose the Denver school, because of the mountains and the hunting.

At the time I entered the gunsmith school I had a truly foolish notion that there was little I could learn about guns. After all, hadn't guns been my lifetime study and hobby? But before a month had passed, I realized that the task before me was equivalent to that facing a pre-medical student in his freshman year. And the qualities a successful gunsmith should have are a lot like those which make a good doctor.

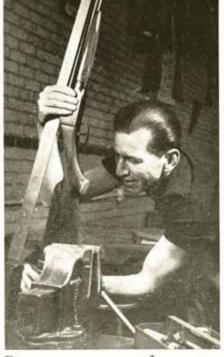
The attributes that a beginning student should possess are:

- 1. Patience.
- 2. An intense interest in guns.
- 3. Fair manual ability.
- 4. A basic knowledge of the use of simple hand tools.
- 5. Patience.

A lack of any one of the above makes the row much harder to hoe. A lack of any two leads to the suggestion that the would-be gunsmith should try some other field.



Randy Atchison applies final gritpaper rubdown to well-grained stock.



Drop measurement on fine customstocked Ithaca double gun is checked.



Instructor and student inspect a reblued barrel before final oil bath.

I recall my first night at school with a mixture of amusement, nostalgia, and frustration. From the registration desk I could look down the double row of benches where students were engrossed with the diversified jobs that comprise the gunsmithing trade. Overhead hung gunstocks and fore-end wood in the last stages of completion. The faint odor of wood fillers and finishing oil competed with the acrid fumes of cutting oil on hot metal from the machine shop in the rear of the building. The music in the air—some might call it cacophony—was of files and hammers on metal, rasps on wood, the click-clacking of actions.

I mentally rubbed my hands together and thought, "Well, where's my first gun to work on?" But the thought was short-lived.

An instructor and student were standing nearby. I caught a snatch of conversation: "When they close on a field gauge, boy, they're ready for the barrel vise and lathe!"

Annoyed, I wondered what the hell is a field gauge? And what is supposed to close on it? Meanwhile, my instructor, Dick Kroeckel, handed me a blueprint. I studied it, a dovetail of male and female pieces that must be filed out of "What is one-eighth C.R.S., Dick?"

"Cold-rolled steel," he answered. "And the pieces must be a tight, finger-press fit as if they were madly in love with each other."

I didn't know it then, but I wasn't to touch a gun for quite a while. The dovetail was the first of a succession of metal practice projects that included filing sight dovetails in barrel blanks, making a sight-mounting clamp and ramp front sight, winding coil springs, and drilling and tapping.

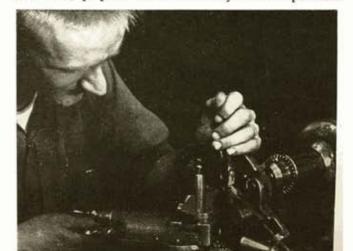
In addition to the metal-working experience provided by the practice projects, these jobs are a true test of the studen's store of patience. Gunsmithing and patience are as inseparable as baking powder and biscuits. Ever see a high-strung, fidgety gunsmith? It is doubtful that you will see many, if any.

After the woodworking projects that followed (pistolgrip section, checkering, inlays, inletting barrel blanks), I arrived at the goal of all rookie students: actually working on a gun. I was handed a Jap 7.7 mm clunker to be altered, stocked, and blued or in (Continued on page 72)

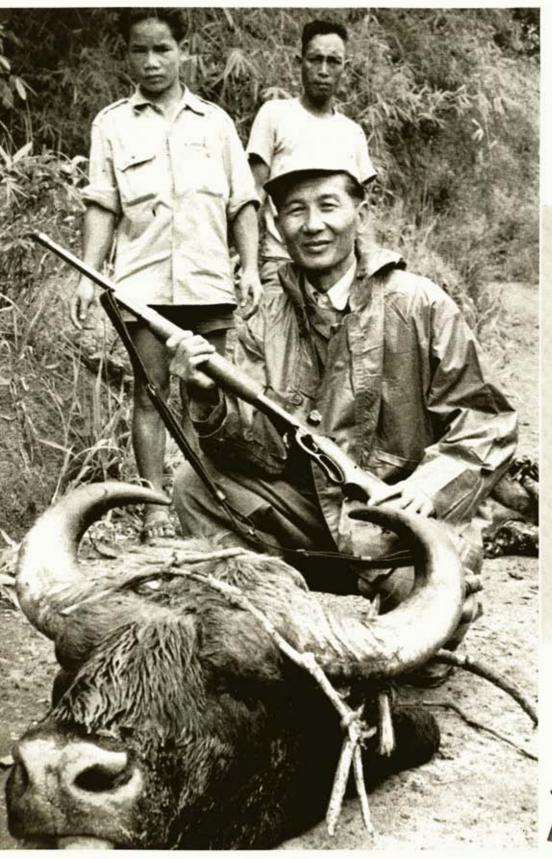


Water-soaked rags protect locking lugs, and goggles protect workman's eyes, as student welds bolt handle.

Crowning pistol barrel requires steady hand and precision work, prepares student for major lathe operation.



HUNTING KING





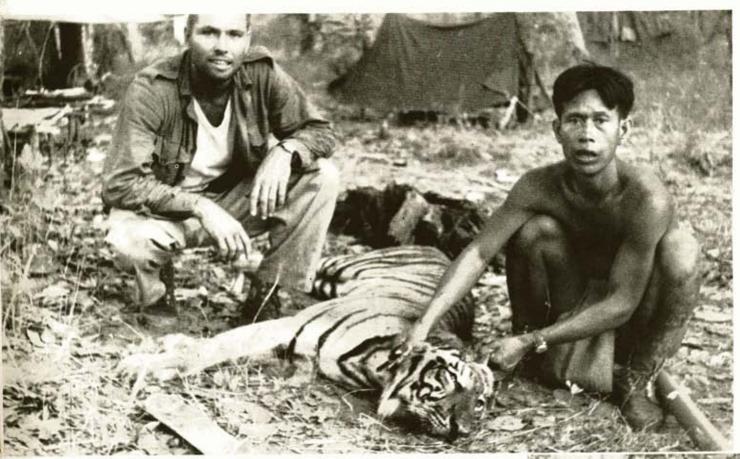
Ngo Van Chi and helpers size up massive head of gaur killed by Colonel Askins. Chi holds Askins' Winchester M71/.450, shooting 400-grain bullet at 4110 lbs. energy.

Favorite gun of Chi is Winchester M70 .375 Magnum.

OF THE ORIENT

Weight is one of the essential characteristics of Chi's rifles designed to stop dangerous game. In same class with his .416 Rigby is .470 double weighing 11 pounds.

ORIENTAL SPORTSMAN, WHO GAVE UP HIS BUSINESS AND MOST OF HIS WIVES TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO SHOOTING ASIA'S MOST DANGEROUS GAME, KILLS MORE BIG TROPHIES, BY HEAD OR BY TON, THAN MOST HUNTERS EVER SEE



A. L. Pope, grandson of famous barrel maker, killed tiger near Bon Don camp. Kim (right) is Chi's Number 1 tracker, whose specialty is elephants.

I have had the pleasure of hunting in recent weeks with a man I nominate for hunting's world-wide hall of fame. His name is Ngo Van Chi, and he kills more game every year—count it by the head or by the long ton—than most self-alleged hunting experts see in a lifetime.

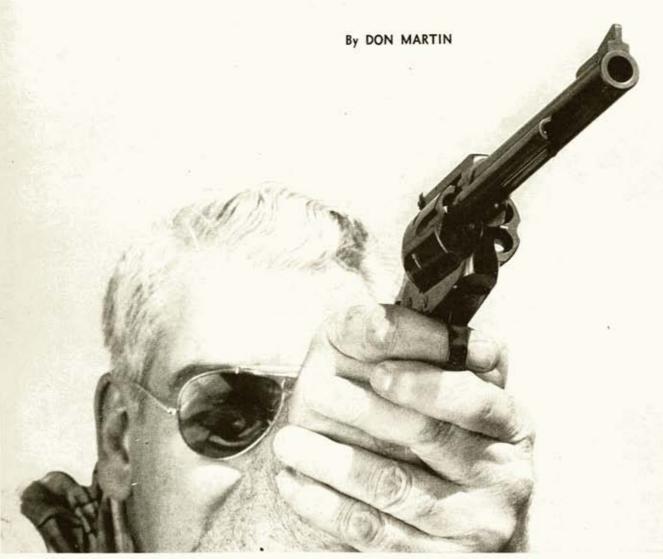
I claim certain qualifications for picking big-time sportsmen, because I've known and hunted with some of the best. There's my pardner, George Parker, distinguished rifleman and pistolman, who has hunted all the way from the Yukon to southwest Africa and is the deadliest shot on running game I've ever watched.

And there's Josef Fenykovi, Hungarian multi-millionaire who lives in Madrid, shoots in Portuguese West Africa. Each July, Fenykovi, now a lively 65, packs up and makes a three-week trek via plane, boat, and auto to his hunting lodge deep in the fastness of Humpata Province, Angola, there to hunt constantly for the (Continued on page 68)



IS THE SINGLE ACTION

FRONTIER SIXES, NEVER SUPPLANTED FOR SPECIFIC HANDGUN USES, ARE BACK, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER IN DESIGN AND POWER



Current boom in sixguns of old-time pattern has received big push from development of .357 and .44 Magnum calibers in Ruger heavy-frame Blackhawk which is fired by expert pistolman Pete Kuhlhoff with long range two-hand hold.

THE PERFECT REVOLVER?

Single-action-type smooth wood grips of Ruger allow heavy gun to kick freely across palm of hand, reducing shock of recoil.

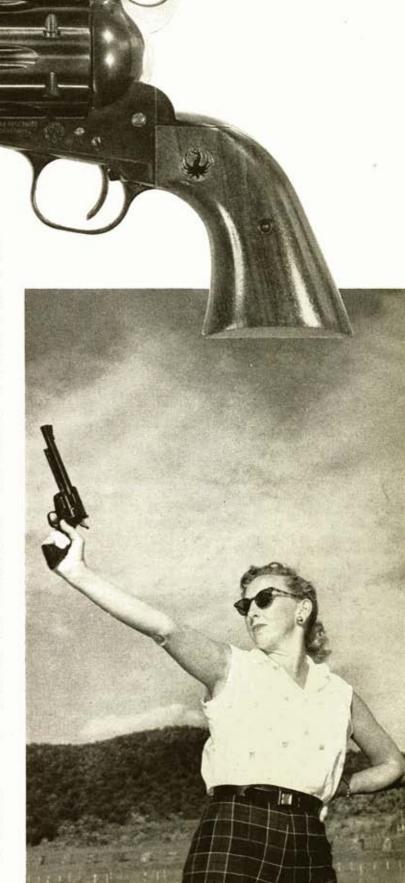
THE COMEBACK of the Single Action in the past five years, under old names and new, in calibers as old as the one-hoss shay and as new as man-made satellites, has revived all the old arguments (and started some new ones) about this much-loved, well-hated, and widely misunderstood hip-pistol. The modern models (Ruger, Great Western, Colt, Pony Express) are all new except the pattern, but they are just as controversial as they were when Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson wore them in Tombstone and Dodge City.

Newest of the new Single Actions is the Ruger Blackhawk .44 Magnum—a gun designed and calibered to carry handgun performance to the near-limit of one-hand weapons. Here is maximum stopping power in a revolver that combines oldtime Single Action ruggedness with 1956 refinements.

The Ruger Single Actions are directly descended, in grip shape, position of trigger and general appearance, from the cap-and-ball guns Colt made for and during the Civil War. Ruger went back also to the oldtime smooth walnut grips, a move applauded by most Single Action addicts. For anything other than target shooting, checkering adds little or nothing to a walnut handgun grip. It adds less than nothing to the Single Action, since a small amount of grip slip is actually one of the secrets of this gun's ability to absorb recoil. The grip rolls down in the hand, placing the thumb nearer the hammer, and the hand returns to its original position as the gun is cocked and pointed.

Ruger improvements on the old Single Action

Powerful .44 Magnum in Ruger makes gun jump but is not objectionable even for Viola Glass who is noted New York shooter.





Simple take-down of single action revolver where cylinder drops out when pin is pulled has much to do with present demand for the type. Rugged strength important to frontiersman in a handgun is still needed in knockabout camping service.

are the adjustable rear sight at the rear of the heavy top strap, and the ruggedly simple inner working parts which require no flat springs. This action in a .22 Ruger Single Six was snapped by an electrical contrivance ten times a minute for six 24-hour days. The operating machine broke down, but the sixgun was still in good condition.

The old-time Single Action had its firing pin on the hammer. The modern Ruger Single Actions have the firing pin in the frame of the gun. The separate firing pin takes care of rim fire ammunition in the .22 caliber Single Six models much better and is an essential precaution against punctured primers in the high-pressure .357 and .44 magnum guns. The old style does well enough with black powder and low pressure smokeless loads.

The Blackhawk .44 Magnum is the power-king of the Ruger line. This .44 Magnum cartridge, pushing a 240 grain bullet at 1,570 feet per second to develop 1,314 foot pounds of muzzle energy, is quite possibly the most powerful pistol cartridge that will ever be sold as a commercial factory load. Heavier ones can be loaded, but the .44 Magnum is plenty of load for most shooters in any gun of reasonable weight, and it delivers all the punch any shooter should demand from a handgun.

The power and the impact of the big, bull-busting .357 and .44 Magnums are no dream. Half a dozen big range bulls were shot in local slaughter houses, forehead shots with the .44 Magnum. The battered slugs were found deep in the necks of the animals. There is enough penetration and smash in this load to account for any soft-skinned animal short of African buffalo. Yet either gun is a good buy for the average shooter who wants a defense weapon or even a target pistol in the center-fire category. Either will fire its own equivalent lighter loads (.38 Special in the .357; .44 Special in the .44 Magnum) with slight recoil

and top accuracy. And you've always got the big loads in reserve for an emergency.

Much has been said and written about the terrific recoil of these Magnum cartridges. I had half a dozen local gunnies, one a 17-year-old girl, fire the .44 Magnum. All, including the girl, laughed at the stories of wild recoil. One chap, shooting at a standard 50' pistol target, made two 9's and a 10 with his last three out of five shots. Conclusion? All the .44 Blackhawk needs to perform well or better is one gun man or gun woman behind it. If you can handle a .45 Colt, you can handle the Magnums.

The Blackhawk .44 Magnum weighs one ounce over two and one-half pounds empty, two ounces under three pounds fully loaded. With target sights on a 6½" barrel, giving 8½" between sights, the Blackhawk .44 Magnum will stretch effective pistol ranges from here to yonder, in the bands of a practiced shooter.

Ruger Single Actions are not well adapted to "fanning" because of their target-style sights. These sharp-cornered bumps on top of the gun will cut a fanner's hand to pieces. But this is small loss, Hollywood heroes notwithstanding. Experienced gun-fighters never used this style in combat, unless possibly in barroom brawls where smoke and number of shots might be more important than hitting the target.

Slip-hammer shooting—thumbing the hammer back and firing the shot by letting the hammer slip from under the thumb—can be done with Rugers, but not very successfully unless the hammer is altered. Hammer alterations were needed on the oldtime Single Actions too, if this method was to be used efficiently. The hammer spur should be smoothed to avoid wounding the shooters thumb, and should be reshaped.

A lot of bad things were said about the oldtime Single Action, but the man who says that it is an out-dated rem-



Judge Don Martin finds two-handed hold while seated gives best accuracy with "Judge Colt," firing at jackrabbits.

nant of a bygone day in gunmaking is just not looking at the whole handgun picture. The Single Action was not and is not a primitive revolver, any more than a double action revolver is a primitive automatic. The Single Action came first, and stayed—not only for sentimental reasons but because it still is the best handgun made for certain uses. It has its faults; so does the double action, so does the automatic. But it has its virtues, too; virtues that neither of the other types can claim. For the uses for which it is intended, it comes as near as a gun can to being the perfect revolver.

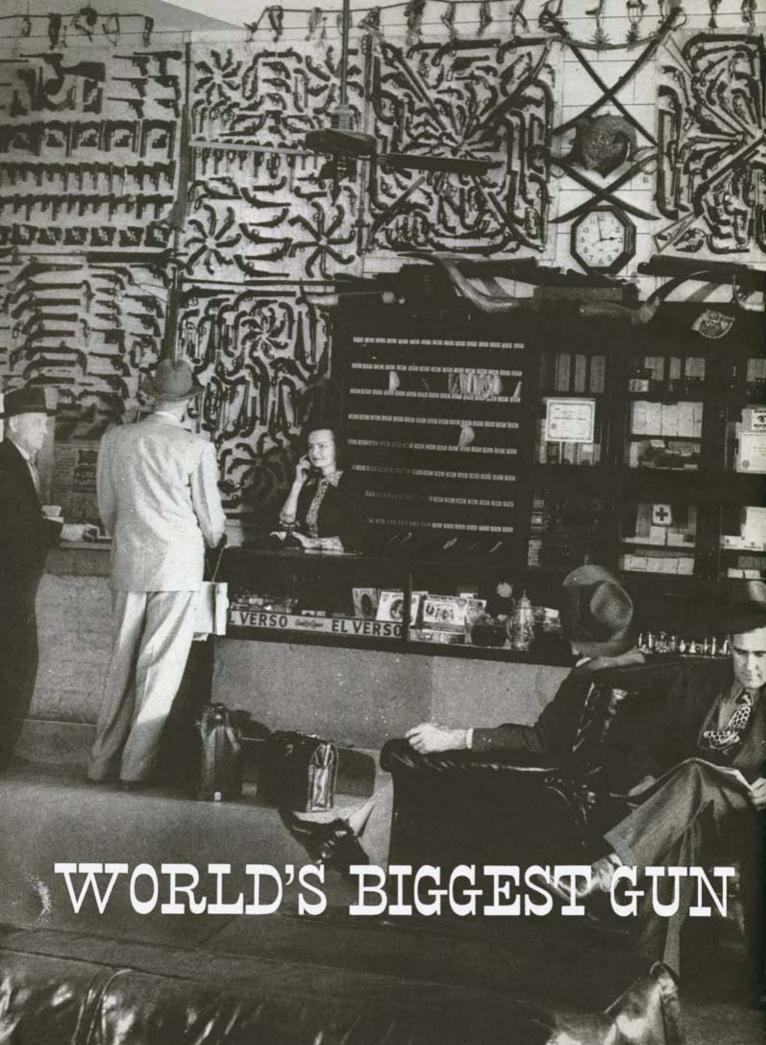
If Single Action virtues had (Continued on page 66)



Single Action Colt with wide hammer spur is favorite of quick draw artists who used slant holster for speed,



Colt Peacemaker was modified by western gunfighter for speed. Hammer spur was lowered to permit slip shooting by letting hammer slip from under thumb while cut guard allowed finger to hold trigger back, leaving hammer free to fall.





AUCTION OF 30,000-GUN
OKLAHOMA COLLECTION
MAY UPSET WORLD'S
ANTIQUE GUN MARKET

By GEORGE P. SHEFFER

 $\Gamma_{
m collection}$ in the world may soon be sold. James M. Davis, owner of the Mason Hotel in Claremore, Oklahoma, which houses his fantastic collection of more than 30,000 guns, valued at between one and two million dollars, has finally bowed to the inevitable. Constantly increasing since the collection was begun 62 years ago, Davis' collection must be disposed of almost immediately, because they are crowding him out of his huge, rambling old frame hotel building. He has been trying to interest the city of Claremore in constructing a firearms museum, a three-story air-conditioned building a half-block long for the guns, but so far this is just talk.

"If I don't get a building. I will sell

the guns," Davis declares.

This sale would be the greatest event of the century in gun collecting. It would level out the spiraling prices on semi-rare items. It would add a tremendous impetus to gun collecting by making available a stock of possibly 30,000 collector's firearms.

In nearby Tulsa, the gun nuts know the meaning of the Davis collection to their market.

"Guns are getting darn tough to find around here," one Tulsa man complained to me. "Everybody with an old gun to sell knows about Davis and they take a Sunday drive up there and sometimes wind up by giving him the gun." Not many gun collectors in far parts of the country actually know Davis, yet the fame of his collection has spread through the lower levels where guns are to be found. He has gained a great

Gun display at Mason Hotel desk is only part of 30,000 item collection.

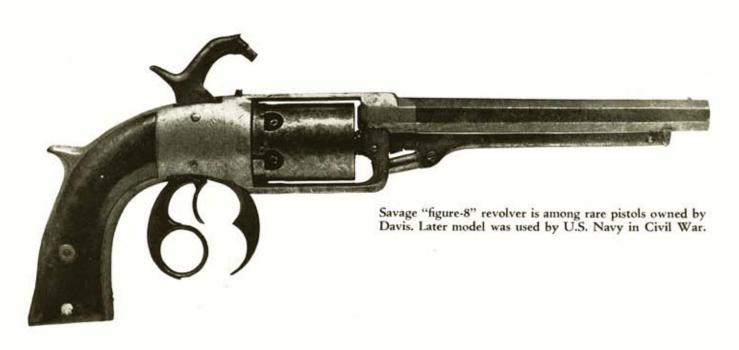


Owner of fabulous Oklahoma collection is James Davis of Claremore, who has turned Mason Hotel into armory. He spends several hours daily cleaning guns.

share of the available guns through the years.

Just how large a share Davis owns even he cannot answer. Yet there is no doubt about it being the world's biggest collection. I had heard rumors of the Claremore guns for a few years, but scoffed at the idea of "world's biggest" collection. Anybody who has knocked around in the gun game for a while gets tired of people putting him onto the "biggest" gun collection. It usually turns out to be two or three hundred guns at the most. Many collectors own over 500 guns, some as many as a thousand. And there are a few which top 5,000 and even 10,000. But Davis long ago passed the 25,000 mark and stopped counting. "I trade some," he explains, "and I just have no way to keep track of what I own. I estimate it would take a year to catalog all the guns and tag them properly for display. I'm the only person living now who knows the stories behind some of these guns but I'm just too busy to take on the job."

When a Colorado rancher told me that Davis' collection was the "biggest thing of its kind" he had ever seen; when a Tulsa gun nut informed me that it would take at least three days to get just a glance at everything on display; and when an Oklahoma City arms deal-



er spoke of the guns in awe, I knew it was time to head for Claremore.

The Mason Hotel was easy to find. As I pushed open the door my eyes grew accustomed to the change in light from the bright sun outside, and suddenly I stopped still in dead amazement. I had expected to see guns, but never so many as this! Guns, guns, guns-wired to panels, festooned on the walls from cornice to floor, in bunches like grapes and baskets and bushels and bales. Every available inch of wall was covered by racks and rows of arms. Long guns were thrust through loops in tire chairs and long rows of these like Jacob's ladders were everywhere on the walls.

Over the arched brick doorway leading into the coffee shop, above a pair of tremendous Longhorn steer horns, was a mounted white goat trophy head warily placed between a Colt Maxim gun and a Marlin aircraft machine gun. I stumbled forward to the lobby desk to pick up my room reservation, gawking at the thousands of guns like a country kid in the big city for the first time. Behind the desk and cashier's cage I saw panoplies of pistols arranged within easy reach.

I later learned that Davis kept some of his best guns on those panels at the Rare German wheelock pistol dates from 1550.

Turkish cavalry pistol has coral decorations.

British light cavalry pistol is Revolutionary.

Berber flint blunderbuss has European lock.

U.S. M1836 pistol was made by I. N. Johnson.

Unusual lock for firing cannon dates 1800.

Army pistol of 1842 was made by H. Aston.

Palmetto Armory in Carolina made 42 gun.

Davis has several bushels of 'suicide specials.'

> Rare carbine has shoulder stock.

One of Davis' 400 Colts is popular Navy.

Single row of pistols from myriad of panels which decorates Mason Hotel walls contains guns from many lands. Davis collects anything that shoots.



Blunderbusses from Balkans (top to bottom), Africa, France, Britain are some of Davis' thousands of long guns draped in tire chains on the walls. desk. But then, my first thought was, "A deadbeat trying to skip out of here without paying his bill could have a choice of being shot by any one of 89 automatic pistols including three Lugers, a fine Borchardt, a choice of Bergmanns, three Davis-Warner pistols, and a Maxim MG-08 machine gun." Above the letter boxes a panel held a stocked Colt Army .44, a stocked Springfield M1855 pistol-carbine, and Raphael, Starr, Allen & Wheellock, Lefaucheux and Colt pistols by the dozens.

As I approached the desk, a tall, spare man with the lines of the frontier on his face rose to greet me with a pleasant smile. This was my first introduction to James M. Davis, owner (as I was now quite ready to believe) of the world's largest gun collection. And I had only seen a fraction of the whole.

My room was on the second floor. It was one of the few rooms still rented, for the others are stuffed with guns. As the porter led the way upstairs, I idly noticed the muskets which lined the wall. With a shock I realized that the commonplace flintlock smoothbore I was glancing at bore the tantalizing script "Virginia Manufactury" mark on the lock. It was a rare prize for the martial arms or Confederate collector alike, yet Davis had not one but three



One of three Paterson Colts with folding triggers owned by Davis is scarce "baby" size in .28 caliber in a fancy case with mold, rod, cylinder and flask.



Three of the fancier guns in Claremore collection are Frontier Colts with full engraving, ivory and silver grips, and .357 Smith & Wesson magnum.



Oldtimer of Claremore reminisces with small fry about Gatling gun such as he saw used in Spanish war and on the frontier in Indian wars of last century.

such muskets, all in original flintlock condition.

The 300-foot long hall was garlanded with more guns. Common, cheap .22 rifles of little distinction and small value were grouped with fine single shot match rifles, Schuetzen style and off-hand, Creedmoor patterns, and muzzle loaders, Hi-Walls, Ballards, Stevens 44's, and European types by distinguished makers. Spaced along the one hall were, at a guess, from 500 to 1,000 rifles, carbines and muskets. More filled the side halls.

After getting settled in my room, I came downstairs again, to the dining room and the coffee shop. There Henry, Leman, Lancaster-made Kentuckys and other varieties of American sporting rifles paneled more wall area. Over 1500 "squirrel rifles" are in the Claremore collection, many of them finely inlaid with silver and brass.

As I sat there sipping my coffee, I glanced about at the other visitors. It was possible to tell the town people from the tourists. Natives ate their dinners, paid and left. Tourists sat there with (Continued on page 52)

HANDLOADING SHAP BENCH SHAP



By KENT BELLAH

WHY LOAD your own? Commercial ammunition is exceptionally good, so why make your own? Match fodder from the factories wins championships, and hunting loads bring down deer season after season, so why handload? The answer is that the factories do make occasional errors in letting defective rounds slip by the inspectors. But fundamentally, the main reasons to handload are: you can handload better fodder for less money, and have fun doing it.

Loading tool ads stress economy, which is very true. A total of 100 reloads cost as little as \$1.50, compared to \$9.70 for .357 Magnum, or \$21.50 for .30-06 loads made by Remington or Winchester. That means factory fodder is so high that few of us can afford to shoot enough to be really ex-

pert. But economy isn't the real reason handloaders are getting thicker than Sunday drivers.

This loading game is pure, fascinating fun. Never since the invention of the metallic cartridge has such superior equipment been available at prices the average guy can afford. Tools, dies, guns and components are so standardized that assembly of precision ammo is a simplified, safe and sane hobby.

Life would be dull without the good people who make our guns and ammunition. I love 'em like brothers. But what do they contribute to the booming do-it-yourself hobby? Nothing—absolutely nothing. They view with alarm the loads you point to with pride. They answer an inquiry on reloading as if the writer were a nine-year-old (Continued on page 46)





Hard brass in .38 shells causes break on firing.





Too deep primer pocket produces misfire.



Bent cartridge came fresh from factory package.





Primer holes off-center result in inaccuracy.

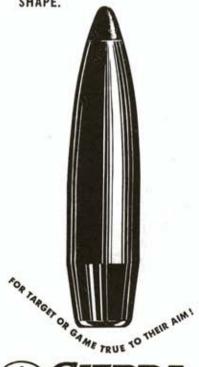


Soft brass is case head makes extraction hard.

SHAPE SHAPE SHAPE SHAPE



Early scientists discovered that a drop of hot lead falling in a shot tower formed a perfect ball. Seeing this natural phenomenon the first bullet manufacturers made ball-shaped bullets. Modern ballistics experts know that a bullet must penetrate the air, not conform to it. Therefore, SIERRA BULLETS are scientifically designed to shoot farther and give maximum accuracy because of their perfect SHAPE.





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AT YOUR

FAVORITE NEWSSTAND

HANDLOADING BENCH

(Continued from page 45)

about to blow off his head because he can't put some powder, a primer, and a bullet in a shell safely.

It is a strange attitude, because reloaders are the factories' best customers and have fewer accidents than occur in bathtubs. Fact is, the hobby has spread like wildfire, safely enjoyed by rich and poor. Every shooter worth the powder he burns is rolling his own and enjoying it. With handloads you can make exactly the ammunition you need.

To make special cartridges for every whim or use a shooter might want would cause ammo makers to add tens of thousands of numbers to their line. No dealer could afford to carry complete stocks. Handloaders brew the exact loads they want and the cost to change over for different loads is nothing at all. For example, a hunter shot completely through three deer with little effect, using commercial .300 H & H Magnum ammo. He bought the gun to have "plenty of power" for long shots. Power he had, but the bullets were designed for deep penetration on heavy game. Replacing the bullets with thin-jacketed, fast-expanding types, he had a super bombshell that would zip 'way across canyons and drop a buck in a heap.

Some writer once stated that handloads were okay for practice, but factory fodder should be used for serious hunting. Nothing could be more ridiculous. That might have been partly true 25 years ago before

top quality tools were available, or 50 years ago when mercuric primers ruined oncefired brass-but not today. In my book, the most important reason for reloading is the superior accuracy and dependability of my ammunition. That doesn't mean factory fodder isn't good and dependable. It is. But it's simple and easy to assemble much better stuff quickly and at far less cost.

The average quality of factory fodder is so good we can use it as a yardstick to measure the quality of our handloads. But once in a while the ammunition makers let a defective cartridge get in a box. It is a wellknown fact that some lot numbers are better than others, which also means some lots are inferior. Minor defects often go unnoticed. To miss a tin can or get an "8" on a bull might be your fault. A hangfire or missfire might be the gun. Or did the factory goof? Some plinkers may not consider it very important, but a hunter who loses a fine trophy thinks it is pretty serious. If the cards are down and you are playing for keeps, a missfire could cost your life.

Like a rotten apple in a barrel, one bad cartridge can ruin an entire case. If all the defective cartridges I've found in the past 20 years out of hundreds of thousands of rounds were pictured, they would fill this issue of Guns from cover to cover. Defects are the rare exception, but some of the junk I've photographed has been astonishing. A good handloader would have discovered most of the defects here shown. Some are component defects that the factory should have discovered. Fully two third of the price you pay for ammo is for testing and inspecting components and inspecting completed cartridges. A typical goof is an off-center primer, apt to give erratic ignition, perhaps a hangfire or missfire. The inspector may have been out late the night before.

Off-center flash holes were found in over 200 cases in a single lot. How they passed inspection is a wonder.

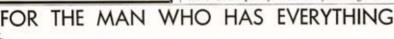
Double flash-holes sometimes occur. They will certainly give over-ignition, which is mighty bad, producing bad pressures. The inspector may have been accustomed to seeing double and thought this was normal.

Another factory goof looks as if it had been made for shooting around corners. A doctor said it had Peyronnie's Disease, but it looks bent to me. The round wouldn't chamber.

A terrible goof was in a .30-06 that gave a long hangfire and let a big Colorado deer get away. The primer was driven in the too-deep pocket, which cushioned the firing-

The ultimate goof happened in a .30 carbine cartridge without a flash hole. How many of these little jewels passed inspection I wouldn't know, but fortunately this one didn't tie up a gun in combat and cost a soldier his life.

Many cases in a lot of 300 which I checked had soft heads. This goof the factory should have prevented through material control, When fired, the rifle bolt locked so tight it had to be driven open with a hammer. Expanded primer pockets poured gas into the



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check, noney order. (Sorry, no C.O.D.'s) magazine. Fortunately the fine FN Mauser action was not wrecked. But it was dangerously soft brass to say the least.

Pistol cases sometimes have an overlydeep cannelure in brittle brass-a compounded goof. Many cases in the lot of 300 we had were pulled apart in first firing, and split mouths and bodies were common. This was just more bad brass that passed factory inspection. A cannelure weakens the case and is totally unnecessary.

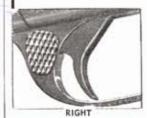
Granted, handloaders do not have the quality control and test equipment used by the industrial giants. But by their own admission they sell us the same tested components they use in their factory loads. We seem to have little need for expensive test equipment. Handloading can improve the components to create more uniform loads and can certainly give them more careful assembly and far better individual inspection. I've known a great many novice and expert handloaders who have had many accidents at work and play. But only one has had even a minor accident with handloads. It must be safer than crossing the street in your home town.

As I said, factory fodder is good merchandise. Before some wag inquires why the bench rest boys don't use it, the answer is: it can be handloaded better and cheaper. Future columns will show you how simple and easy it is. Tips will help you eliminate flyers, plink tin cans, make more 10's, or bag a buck. And if it is ever necessary, you can bet your life on the ammunition you load.





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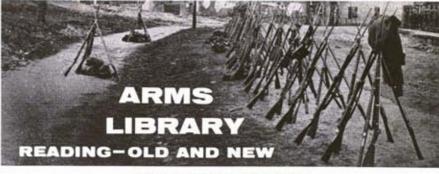
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ARMS AND MEN

Gun fans are a specialized market for any ican Revolution through to a final chapter headed "The Future of War." The author's conclusions may not be agreed on by

A detailed listing of sources by footnotes which so often clutter up otherwise readable popular volumes has been avoided in this one by a concise appendix covering basic reference materials by chapter. The author makes no claim to "basic research," yet he has studied such early-day published works as Admiral John Dahlgren's "Shells & Shell Guns" (1856) and Congressman William Sumner's "An inquiry into the importance of the militia," published in 1823. It is refreshing to read a book on military affairs by an author who seems to know the difference between a musket and a rifle, as well as other more technical gun facts.

By Walter Millis (Putnam's, \$5.75)

publisher to tackle, but "Arms and Men" has scored a bullseye. The slant of the narrative, a lively and readable history of the development of our military policy and armies as related to the development of weapons, will make Millis' 365-page book an important volume in many gun students' libraries. The book lacks illustrations but the text is there to read, carrying the story of the development of armies from the Amer-

all, but his facts are irrefutable.

TRAILING THE COWBOY

Edited by Clifford Westermeier (Caxton, \$5)

In "Trailing the Cowboy," Clifford Westermeier has accomplished with great skill and judgment the job of assembling newspaper clippings from major and minor western presses of the post-Civil War era, These clippings, with the tang and sometimes sting of reality, bring forth the western cowboy as he was seen by others, and as he lived, in his own times.

All gun fans have a soft spot for the western guns," the Winchester and the Colt. Now Westermeier has made it possible for the gun fan to read genuine anecdotes of cowboys and guns, and to gain a greater appreciation of the importance which firearms had in frontier days. The chapter on "Law and Disorder" with its sub-section on "Six-Shooters" is alone worth the price of the book. But far more than bare facts on frontier firearms, Westermeier's trailing of the cowboy leads the reader on such diverse paths as the "Primrose Trail" and "The Golden Rule." There is an authentic creak of saddle leather and bawling of heifers in this almost documentary book on the old west.

SMALL ARMS OF THE WORLD

By W. H. B. Smith (Military Service, \$10)

When the arms book reviewer is handed a tome of 768 pages, illustrated by so many photographs of firearms that he doesn't care to spend time counting them, there is an almost unavoidable tendency to show how much the reviewer knows by casting stones at the book. Falling into this trap, I must say that this is not impossible with Smith's opus magnus. Captions are transposed. Photos of non-existent guns appear, such as the picture of a Beretta 9mm carbine on page 538 which has the clip magazine jammed into the ejection port instead of in its place on top of the gun. But the person, whether reviewer or reader, who labors these few deficiencies, is entirely overlooking the incalculable merit of a great book.

Smith has led up to this work gradually, through several previous editions from the \$2 paperback which was widely sold during World War II to this tremendous basic reference of today. There are in this book pictures that will amaze and please the gun fan-illustrations of rare and sometimes unique models which, despite their rarity, often had an influence on small arms design. For the automatic gun collector. whether pistols or machine guns, this book is a must. The detailed descriptions of how to disassemble and adjust machine guns of all

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countries make for great popular interest to the collector and student today, just as they made the first editions indispensable to the serviceman overseas who might be called on to use captured enemy material.

Smith has increased the book size by adding one of the finest popular historical studies on the development of arms to be found between covers. By so doing he has broadened the scope of his writing to the point where "Small Arms of the World" can be read, understood, enjoyed and beneficial to virtually any alert man of modern times. It is interesting reading . . . a package deal seldom offered in a specialized field.

THE GUN DIGEST TREASURY

Edited by John T. Amber (Gun Digest Co., \$2.50)

In the 11th year of publication, the Gun Digest has finally come of age—it is repeating itself. The repetition takes the form of the Gun Digest Treasury, a handsome companion volume to the current Gun Digest. The Treasury will especially appeal to those who missed getting the earlier Gun Digests, and did not wake up until too late. Nearly 60 articles in the Treasury make it not only the most interesting reading for its size around, but the selection of articles has added greatly to its lasting value.

Baron Engelhardt's "Story of European Proof Marks" is assembled together in one handy form for immediate reference. "Winchester's Forgotten Cartridges," which John Amber found so popular that he had to reprint it from the 6th edition some years ago and sell for 25 cents, is also included. Good sense articles such as that by Doc Stebbins, "Used Guns and How To Buy 'Em," and Phil Sharpe's "The Art of Handloading Ammunition," are mingled with essays such as "Browning's First Rifle" and "Paterson and Walker Colts." Seven articles on shotgunning prove that the scatterbore enthusiast is not slighted, and "The Secrets of Double Action Shooting" in the handgun section will prove of strong interest to practical pistolmen.

EXPLORING THE NORTHERN PLAINS Edited by Lloyd MacFarling (Caxton, \$7.50)

Few books today can boast the distinguished list of contributors which Lloyd MacFarling has assembled in "Exploring the Northern Plains." Captain William Clark, co-leader of the Lewis & Clark expedition, leads off by contributing the first chapter concerning his trek to the Columbia, the first manifestation of our national destiny. His colleague Meriweather Lewis pens the second chapter. Henry Marie Brackenridge, famed Indian artist and frontier reporter George Catlin, Brevet Lieutenant John C. Fremont, Francis Parkman, Captain Howard Stansbury are but a few of the major men of their times whose works have been culled for pertinent passages which lead the reader west. The period of expansion from 1804 to the Custer Battle is detailed by eye-witnesses who bring the immediacy of daily newspaper reporting to events long past.

Throughout for the gun fan, there are all-too-brief references to arms issued and used by the military convoys, such as Capt. William Ludlow's noting that the Black Hills Expedition's "artillery was represented by three Gatlings and a 3-inch rifle."









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7 inchester's New .458 Magnum, will make the British big guns look to their laurels. For those who have longed to own a big-bore gun yet did not want to buy imported fodder, and for those who wanted a rifle of the elephant class but frowned on double rifles, this is a welcome addition to the Winchester line.

The new load is built around the belted .375 case, shortened to 21/2" and expanded to .458. Bullets are 500 grain solids and .510 grain soft points. Velocity is 2125 feet per second with both weights and the striking force is slightly over 5000 foot pounds at the muzzle. This all makes for one terrific cartridge. Here is our first commercially manufactured cartridge that is in the class of the .500/465, the .470 and the .475. It will do everything that any of these will do and kick a hell of a lot less.

When I got my .458 I took it, along with my double .475 #2, out to the local range. Setting up shop at 100 yards I found that it was much more difficult to get off two wellaimed shots with a double rifle of this caliber that it was to get off not only two, but three with the .458. The reason for this is the feel and recoil of the double gun.

Double gun recoil is straight back and up and I mean right now. I have fired my .475 as much as ten times in one standing and all I can say is, it sure kicks. The gun is finely built but the blat and roar from those Kynoch loads will give anyone a headache. Most American shooters don't like to shoot such a double as much as ten times, because it will almost make you sick, punch-drunk. But you can shoot with the Model 70 .458, Perhaps it is the welcome, old familiar feeling that comes from gripping a stock like the regular Model 70, instead of that skinny forend found on double rifles. The weight is about the same as my .475 double at 9.5 pounds, for the Winchester scales 9.7 unloaded with the sling.

Recoil of the new cartridge is not at all unpleasant to anyone experienced with the .375. Granted, you know you are shooting something a lot bigger. I found I could lose skin off my elbows when shooting it from a bench. but it is by no means as punishing as the .475 double or an old 11.2 Schuler I had.

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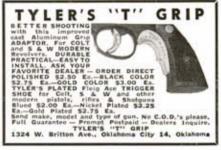
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tridge. It develops all the power of the big English cartridges with less recoil and equal ballistics. The weight per round is less, which all adds up to a better deal when you are paying air freight to Kenya.

A good big bore shooter will have no trouble at all in getting as good results as I did (2" groups or better) and the reloader will come up with even better ones, I am sure.

Price of \$295 is partly accounted for by the .458 being available only in Super Grade. While the price is higher than other M70's, it is much less than the plainest doubles. The price alone will attract far more people than the maker at first realized. The high cost of a good European double has been prohibitive for many men who would have preferred to take their own big game rifles on safari. The American hunter especially will be pleased with the big rifle because it fits him like the bolt guns he is accustomed to.

The .458 is a basic Model 70 with some improvements. Capacity is four rounds if you drop one into the chamber, close the bolt, and

load three more through the hinged magazine floorplate. But the gun doesn't feed easily with this much pressure on the cartridges and three loaded into the magazine, and then closing the bolt, work much better. If you can't kill that elephant with three, you better let him go anyway. Recoil pad is solid, not spongy. The front swivel lug is attached directly to the barrel, which is a very good idea as it allows the stock to recoil over the left hand without any swivel base or sling hitting your fingers.

Rear sight is a leaf moved along an inclined ramp for elevation. The adjustment is by a single turn knob in the sight. Once the rifle's zero is found, the moveable leaf can be cramped tight by a fine-headed set screw.

The sight design is one that should be studied by the hunter who plans to use this weapon on dangerous game. It should be set, positively zeroed at one range, and locked into place. The sight setting after tightening the screw should be checked on the range. Next best thing is to (Continued on page 81)



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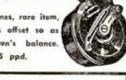


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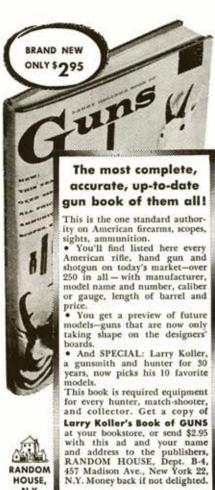
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The most complete, accurate, up-to-date gun book of them all! This is the one standard authority on American firearms, scopes, sights, ammunition. Later during the evening Davis found time to show me around the hotel. He is a likeable chap, but a bit hard to get to know in some respects. He shies away from publicity, particularly by the usual newspaper writer who talks about "automatic revolvers" (Davis has a couple, incidentally,

GRIP COMPASS

their heads strained back while food grew

cold and coffee muddy. I spotted two fel-

low gun collectors because they seemed to be

playing a game. Their lips were moving and

I could see that both were mentally speaking

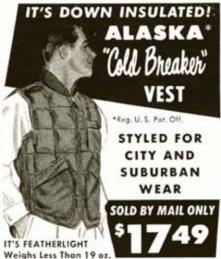
the names of the various guns as they tried

to identify them by sight.



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 but the newspaper writers do not know that) and write about him in inaccurate articles,

WORLD'S BIGGEST GUN COLLECTION
(Continued from page 44)

"I've been collecting guns for 62 years," the tall Oklahoman told me. He began collecting at the age of seven when a \$1.50 muzzle loading shotgun was given to him by his father, John Davis of El Dorado, Arkansas. Then when John Davis died, son Jim inherited his 12-gauge double gun. From that time on he began to pick up guns avidly. Living in Oklahoma and Arkansas where Revolutionary guns were used by the country folk, and Civil War guns drifted into the area as war surplus, Davis rapidly built up his collection.

"When I got older, opportunities to purchase guns came so fast that for a time I was forced to set a limit," Davis told me. "I cut myself down to buying about \$3,000 worth a month. I would sell or trade off about a third of that." We went into a long room on the first floor where dozens of saddles, many fine ones with gold and silver conchos and deeply carved leather fittings, were stacked. A big glass-topped display case stood near the door. It was cluttered with pistols.

"Those are some of my gangster guns," Davis explained dryly. "Most of them didn't cost me anything. They were given to me by my many friends who are police officers in this and other states." He pointed to several modern handguns under the glass. "That .44 revolver was used by a bodyguard of Frank and Jesse James," he said. "That .41 Colt revolver and those two automatics belonged to Pretty Boy Floyd."

As we turned to leave the room, he remarked that he had some other guns used by famous desperados of the old and not so old west. "Picked up a .45 automatic that was used by Bonnie Parker," he continued, "and a sawed-off shotgun used by deputy sheriff Murray Bartlett to kill Amber Nix and knock out Arthur Gooch near Okemah in 1934. Gooch later was the first criminal hanged under the Lindbergh kidnaping law, so that shotgun is pretty historical in a way." Davis also had other guns in the case. ".44 Remington cap-and-ball #91518, Henry Wallace, Pony Express rider," was scrawled on one tag, bringing an added flavor of adventure into that musty, dustshrouded storeroom.

We looked into more glass cases, at hundreds of fine and rare pistols. Beside a cabinet where a beautiful pair of Beattie percussion duellers caught my eye, I did a double take of astonishment. In the bottom of the cabinet were six magnificent Volcanic repeating pistols, enough to stir the pulses of the most blase, advanced collector. But one of the pistols was something that the wise boys never have mentioned-a shoulderstock equipped single-shot Volcanic pistol, with the frame front rounded and blending into the barrel breech. There was no usual Volcanic tube magazine. Davis saw my questioning look but he did not volunteer any information. Soon I was to learn that the rare and unusual is old hat with Davis. No matter what the collector's specialty, he can often show the visitor as complete a collection in that specialty as anybody in the

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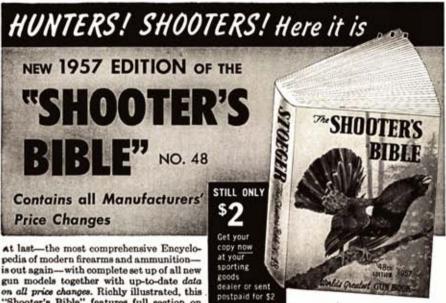
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During the evening an out-of-town Remington enthusiast stopped by to chat and try to trade Davis out of a gun or two. With years of experience in gun swapping, Davis knows how to handle both kinds of collectors. The Yankee carpetbagger type who wants to come down and make a sharp deal gets short shrift in Claremore. He usually leaves poorer than he arrived, Davis having, so to speak, "invented" horse trading. But for the real collector who approaches him to talk guns and maybe do a little plain and fancy trading, Davis always has time,

He took the Remington man up to one of the rooms-a room which Davis had been renting only a few months before. Now it was a gun room, so rapidly has his collection expanded. Carefully he pushed open the door a crack. We had to slip around the edge into the room. I couldn't stifle an exclamation as Davis snapped on the light. Fine fancy-grade lever-action rifles, Stevens, Marlin, Savages, and Winchesters lay piled like cord wood, criss-cross on the floor. On table tops across the room were dozens of hand-

I noticed one which seemed to be a common Lefaucheux pinfire. Then I looked again. It had an extra long barrel, was fully engraved with fancy checkered handles, and had a tell-tale steel plate fitted into the back of the grip to take a detachable buttstock. "Guess I've still got the stock for that somewhere in this room," Davis muttered in an abstract tone, as if he really didn't much care.

Then he turned to the Remington collector, "Did you say you wanted to look at



on all price changes. Richly illustrated, this "Shooter's Bible" features full section on

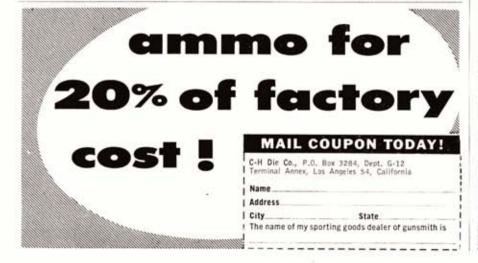
imported guns, including Custom-Model 1956 Mannlicher-Schoenauer; new Franchi 12-gsuge Magnum automatic shotgun; new Krico .222 rifles and carbines; and dozens of others.

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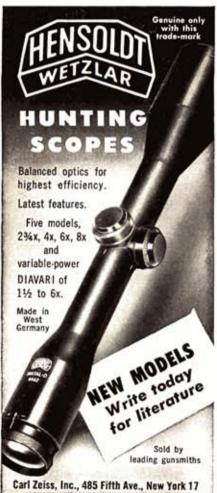


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Route 3, Box 435 Charleston, West Va. some fine stuff, some cased Remington re-volvers, maybe? Then help yourself." He stretched out his hand to a shoulder high stack of polished walnut and mahogany boxes, gleaming dully under their new dust. While the Remington man busied himself with looking, I glanced around the littered room, where rifles lined the walls like lum-

Davis collects anything shootable. Judging from the contents of one small room, he will buy anything offered to him. Brand new Remington Model 740 and 760 .30 caliber hunting rifles, fresh out of the box, and halfa-dozen still in the boxes, were ranged along one side of the area. Modern sporting Springfields, Japs, Mausers and Enfields lined a stretch of wall. There were enough modern rifles to stock a big sporting goods store. Not one but an even dozen Mannlicher-Schonauers stood ready for deer season. No two were exactly the same model or caliber. Boxes containing well-known modern brand names were everywhere. Carelessly thrown on the floor in a corner pile were several shipping packages obviously containing heavy-frame Smith & Wessons. They had been shipped from the factory and had never been opened, their labels still in-

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Davis stooped and picked up a long wooden pistol case. Opening it, he took out one of a pair of magnificently engraved Frontier Colts, decorated with cattle brand marks on every flat and curve of surface. "Your favorite guns?" I hazarded.

Davis smilingly replied, "I have no favorites. I like them all."

One Remington had finally attracted the attention of the would-be swapper. Davis did not to know too much about the gun, or so he tried to appear. But as he took the percussion revolver into his hands, he said: "Well, it's a nice gun, it's just a pretty nice gun. Don't know much about it . . . guess the Remington factory didn't make many of this spur-trigger model with eight inch barrels . . . " It was a special order gun, a rare variation of a fairly scarce model, the Remington-Beals .31 caliber pocket pistol. Davis, I felt, knew exactly what it was and what it was worth.

Davis was not inclined to swap for the gun offered to him. "Why I've got a dozen of that type," he snapped. But as the Remington collector said good-by and left, I could see the old man's eyes narrow as he calculated whether he could buy the gun and add it to his own.

During the evening shift Davis worked at the desk. He alternates with his employees, sometimes working mornings, and other times late at night. That way he gets to meet the steady customers who pass by and stop for coffee, as well as many hotel guests. "Plenty of folks just stop in to ask ques-tions about the guns," remarked Davis, "but I get some strange ones in here sometimes.

"You see that rack of revolving rifles?" he went on.

"Yes," I replied, "you mean those Colts over to the left of the fireplace? Some pretty nice guns there."

"Your durn right," he exclaimed, "and do you know one young fellow came in here and told me one of those wasn't a Colt. He said that third one there, from the top, was made in Belgium or something." I looked and saw a revolving rifle with Navy-type lever and a square back trigger guard. The rounded pistol grip was carved in a grotesque mask. "I bet him \$500 to \$10 that my rifle was made by Colt, but he was a mighty slow in putting up. He sure didn't know his Colts," he chuckled.

Davis has reason to be proud of his Colts. He owns close to 400 different types of Sam Colt's product. Two glass showcases stand against one wall. One time Davis was surprised to see a bustling Texas oilman walk in, take a quick look at the cases, and get out his check book. "He wanted to give me \$75,000 for the contents of the two cases," said Davis, "but I wasn't selling. Another time a man offered me \$15,000 for my three Paterson Colts and two Walker revolvers." I took a look through the glass at these rare items. One of the Walkers had been sawed off in the barrel, but who cares? It must have given Davis a real kick to coolly turn down such offers. I asked him point blank how much the collection is worth.

"That's not so easy to answer," he parried. "I guess the collection is worth just about what anybody would pay for it. I've been buying for a long time and it is no secret that I have a lot of money in it. But whether it's one million or two million or just how much, I don't know and nobody else does either."

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(Continued from page 19)

parts of the mechanism are the same. Even in Remington's most expensive .22 rifle, the match 40-X, many parts used are designed originally for other models.

The 40-X replaces the excellent prewar Model 37 which, it is understood, cost too much to manufacture. A comparison of the M37 and its replacement shows the trend in rifle manufacture in the U.S. The M37 was a precision-made rifle. Only one part in the entire rifle was stamped out. On the 40-X many parts are cleverly made by stamping, moulding, or brazing, and the magazine has been omitted.

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Stock dimensions on most models tested show a great improvement over .22 rifle stocks of 25 years ago. Only a few stocks had objectionable dimensions. The comb on the M67 Winchester rifles was too high for comfort for an adult when using factory sights. The grip on the M750 H & R was so short that it would accommodate only two

The cheaper rifles come equipped with the bare minimum of accessories. Bead front and open rear sights are standard. These sights permit fair accuracy when properly aligned. Several models such as the M510 Remington and M69 Winchester have inexpensive receiver sights adjustable for elevation and windage. Sights on both models have friction locks. These might allow the sights to get out of adjustment if given rough handling. Precision receiver sights, such as those by Lyman and Redfield, can be mounted on most models. Such sights cost as much as some types of telescopic sights. Shooters may prefer to invest in scope sights if they want to make best use of the aceuracy the low-cost rifle is capable of de-

Repeating and self-loading rifles are generally medium-priced. The designs, other than the feeds, resemble some of the bolt action single-shots. Feed mechanisms have a considerable number of parts which increase the cost of the arm but do not improve the accuracy.

Target rifles differ mainly from sporting models in barrel weight and stock dimensions. Barrels on the Winchester 52 and 40-X Remington are 28" long. Weight of these rifles is about twice that of sporting models. Target rifle stocks have a broader

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forearm and higher comb than those on sporting rifles. More complex trigger mechanisms are fitted to the target guns. On the most expensive match rifles, triggers are adjustable for creep, backlash, and weight

Workmanship on U. S. production models is of sufficient quality to insure a fair level of performance. None of the rifles inspected compared favorably in workmanship with the prewar Walther Sportmodel. Quality of workmanship varied with the manufacturer and model. There was little evidence of hand fitting or finishing on the rifles tested. Most machined parts had burrs and the metal finish was generally rough.

Some of the lower-priced models use chromium plating on the bolt, trigger, and trigger guard. This finish improves the rustproof qualities of the part. Its greatest advantage probably lies in its ability to catch the eye of the novice shot and thus promote the sale of the rifle. To one accustomed to handling guns of high quality, the finish is not appealing.

The quality of the workmanship was most easily seen in the fit of bolt in receiver. dimensions and uniformity of bore, trigger pull, fit of stock to barrel and receiver, and stock finish.

The bolt-receiver fit of most of the lowerpriced rifles tested was good. However, in several rifles the fit was so poor that the bolt was difficult to operate and the accuracy performance may have been affected.

The dimensions and uniformity of the bore varied greatly with the manufacturer and model. On the cheaper models, the barrels are pressed into the receiver and pinned in place. On the more expensive models the barrels are threaded to the receiver.

Grooves varied from four in the M67 and M69 Winchesters to 16 in the M100 Marlin. Minimum groove diameter ranged from .2200" for the M510P Remington to .2245' for the M67 Winchester. The bores on both Winchester M67 rifles tested had indentations in the bottoms at the location of the stock screw lugs.

To achieve maximum accuracy, it is customary for a skilled workman to spend a considerable amount of time obtaining a tight fit between receiver-barrel assembly and stock. A minimum of hand-fitting is done on the factory models. However, the bedding on most of the rifles, and especially on the low-priced Remington and Winchesters tested, was very good. The workmanship on the expensive target rifles was little better than on the low-priced models.

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rifle cannot be cocked. The rifle was accidentally discharged during the tests when the cocking piece was retracted and released with the bolt not fully closed. The Marlin M100 could be fired in

and rubber shims are inserted between the

wood and metal parts on assembly. On the

40-X Remington the barrel channel is cut

oversize and two screws are installed through

the stock near the end of the forearm to make a contact with the barrel, if desired.

compared favorably with those used in the most expensive. Stocks on the rifles tested

were of good quality with one exception. The grain ran in the proper direction, Out-

side stock finish was sufficient to seal the

grain except on one model where the stock

had been darkened only by dipping in a lin-seed or similar oil bath. There was no finish

Several rifles were deficient in safety. The

M67 Winchester is advertised as a favorite

for use in training because of its extra safety

features. This rifle must be cocked manu-

ally by pulling back a knob on the bolt rear after the cartridge has been inserted. With the bolt fully closed and firing pin cocked, the bolt cannot be opened. But if the bolt should not close fully for any reason, the

on the inside of any factory-made stock.

Materials in the cheapest factory rifles

the same manner. Unloading the M67 Winchester once it is cocked is cumbersome. The manufacturer recommends that, to unload the rifle after cocking, the safety be placed "on" and the trigger be retracted while the bolt is raised.

This procedure requires using both hands. The safety on both M521T Remington and M144 Mossberg rifles failed to prevent operation of the trigger when a considerable force

was applied to it.

A rifle firing pin should remain forward until chamber pressure has dropped to normal. This prevents the escape of gas through the firing pin hole. Both the M67 Winchester and Marlin M100 have rebounding firing pins, and the pin hole in the bolt is not always closed while there is high chamber pressure. Many cartridge cases failed to seal the bore completely when fired in these rifles. A considerable amount of gas and small particles escaped to the rear, hitting the shooter in the face. Gas escape could develop a bad case of flinching, and when firing without shooting glasses it could be dangerous to the eyes. The front bolt design of the M67 Winchester permits gas to escape around the bolt. The gas is deflected to the rear at this point.



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The Savage M6 autoloader also threw gas' and hot particles to the rear during firing. The rifle is a blow-back semi-automatic and operates while there is still some gas pressure in the chamber. Shooting glasses should be worn while using any self-loading weapon because of the bits of unburned or burning powder which escape to the rear when the case is ejected.

Trigger pulls of all U.S. production models tested leave much to be desired. Average pull on the cheaper rifles was from four pounds for the M750 H & R to six pounds for the M510P Remington. These are heavier than that desired for accurate shooting. Most of the triggers had considerable movement before and after the firing pin was released. The target rifles had lighter, adjustable trigger pulls. Yet on these there is much variation in pull from shot to shot, as on the cheaper models.

The time required for the trigger to function in the match rifles may be greater than that on the cheaper rifles. Lock time is important when firing from positions such as the standing and kneeling where the rifle is not held steadily.

From this study emerged several conclusions about buying a .22 rifle. The lower-priced rifles give the greatest value per dollar of investment. They are capable of a high level of accuracy when using a suitable brand of ammunition. Because of variation in design and workmanship among the different models, inspect carefully the general characteristics and safety features on the rifle before buying.

The magazine repeating feature is an expensive one. Because of this, the convenience of reloading without additional effort when using a self-loading model, or by operating a lever when using a repeating model, is probably worth the additional cost only to the hunter or plinker who may need several rapid shots at moving targets.

The casual marksman who wants to become a highly-skilled shot at the smallest cost would do well to buy a moderately-priced training rifle. The extra \$100, the difference in price between this rifle and the expensive target model, he can invest in ammunition. The expensive target rifle can come later for competitive shooting.







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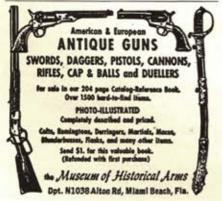
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WHY NO LEFT-HANDED GUNS

(Continued from page 26)

ing problem tends to nullify the advantages these rifles have in operating ease for the left-handed shooter. Only with tight-chambered bolt action rifles and very strong single-shots like the Winchester Hi-Wall can we size the necks only and not have trouble.

So why haven't any of the manufacturers produced left-handed bolt action rifles? The answer is, of course, that one of them did. Back in the tail end of the depression, Mossberg made at least five different models of left-handed bolt action rifles in .22 caliber. How would you southpaws like to buy a lefthanded bolt action .22, factory built, with a fine adjustable trigger, speed lock, excellent safety positioned right under your thumb, a very accurate 22" medium-heavy barrel, genuine walnut cheek-piece target stock with quick detachable swivels-all for less than \$20.00? You could have done just that in 1937, but you didn't bother to. Buyers were too few and Mossberg discontinued production.

When asked why they stopped making this wonderful rifle, Walter Pierson of Mossberg & Sons said, "We discontinued it simply because the demand for it was not enough to justify its manufacture. Apparently, left-handed persons learn to shoot right-handed even though they do practically every other thing left-handed. We went into the manufacture of left-handed rifles on the basis of the number of left-handed golf clubs that were sold. The same ratio of shooters does not apply, as we found out several years

later." Mossberg didn't make any money selling left-handed rifles in 1937; but, "on the other hand," as we southpaws say, who made any money then, period? I'm lucky to own one of these rifles and I wouldn't sell it for five times the original cost.

Shooters seem to follow a pattern in their choice of rifles as they become more interested in the game, shoot more, and become more expert. The hunter who goes after game once or twice a year selects a rifle that is light in weight and capable of many shots, quickly. A little later, he notices that the good shooting is usually being done by scope-sighted bolt-action rifles. If he is right-handed, he has only to go to the nearest sporting-goods store and he can fix himself up to look like an expert. But the left-handed hunter has a more complex problem.

Only one left-handed bolt-action, center fire rifle is being manufactured in the world today. That is the Mathieu, which is a fine but strictly custom rifle, costs \$267.50, and requires several weeks for delivery. Another choice in a beautiful custom job is an ingenious gear-train conversion on Mauser actions by Roy Gradle of Santa Barbara. He does not convert customers' actions but will build a custom left-handed rifle to your specifications at \$65 more than the cost of the same rifle in the right-handed form, making the total cost \$275. He does beautiful work and his product should be satisfactory in every way.

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problem is the converting of the Remington Models 721 and 722. This gives you a rifle that has everything-strongest, safest action, fine adjustable trigger, safety right under your thumb, top accuracy, low scope mounting and beautiful appearance. They come drilled and tapped for scope mounts. Fired cases need only neck sizing for reloading and last indefinitely with moderate loadings.

Three gunsmiths are doing this work at present: Erven Barber of Portland, Oregon; Dale M. Guise of Gardners, Pa., and Karl Englert of Philadelphia. The Naval Company of Doylestown, Pa., formerly made conversions but discontinued this work, and before the war, R. F. Sedgeley built left-hand Springfields. Erven Barber's Remington conversions are beautifully done. The bolts operate much smoother than when new from the factory and many thousands of full loads, fired during several years, have developed no mechanical troubles in any of them. The stocks were ordered from Bishop and Herter with right-hand cheek-pieces and no cuts for the holts

The effect on a left-handed rifleman when he spots these rifles on the range or in the field is something to see. He may have been perfectly contented with his right-handed rifle up to that moment, but from there on, he is never completely happy. He asks what kind of a rifle it is, how much it costs, how long it took to make. He fondles it and regretfully gives it back. Yet after all that, very few of them ever go and order one. A combination of inertia and lack of money seems to hold them back.

The only left-handed bolt .22 rim fire rifle being made today is a sweet job made by Roy Dunlap that looks like a photographic reversal of a Winchester Model 52. He says that the demand is very light, however, although the price is in line with other highquality match rifles. But paying a stiff price is not always necessary.

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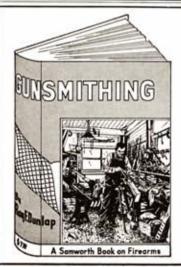
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Thomas G. Samworth Georgetown 7,

Left-handed shooters have been neglecting one very fine solution to their rifle problems: the single shot. Of all my rifles, the ones that I have the most affection for and that I would sell last are the single shots. At first glance this seems to be a purely emotional attitude, as the best bolt actions are inherently a trifle more accurate and do hold several shots in the magazine. In actual practice, though, I have found that I shoot better in the field with the single shots than with any other type of rifle. It has been interesting to me to see that the old master, Colonel Townsend Whelen, has the same feeling. He has always had a soft spot for the single-shots and especially the Winchester Hi-Wall

How can we analyze the reasons for our attraction to this apparently antiquated rifle? Perhaps because it is so simple and easy to use. The action was invented by the great John M. Browning, was first manufactured in 1885, and was on the market for 35 years. It was made in every imaginable rimmed caliber from .22 short to .50-95 Winchester Express. Four different styles of triggers were furnished: the plain sporting trigger, the single set, the double set close together, and the double Schuetzen type. The latter two types are on the rifles I own and are very fine. Even if they are not set, they are crisp and, when set, they are incredibly delicate. They adjust by an outside screw.

The single shot action is very short. This makes the barrel look much shorter than it actually is. My .35-55 Hi-Wall has a 22" barrel that looks so short that people wonder if it's legal.

There is quite a story behind my .38-55. It is really an Apex .375 H&H Magnum barrel chambered to .38-55 and throated to take the 300 grain Magnum bullets seated well out. Loaded with 33 grains of #4198 powder and the 300 grain Silvertip bullet, it is about as potent a brush gun as any one would want, and very handy because of length. It shoots the 310 grain Dr. Hudson cast bullet wonderfully well for target shoot-

My Schuetzen rifle is an original #3 Winchester 30" target barrel in .32-40 caliber with a new stock and fore-end by Bishop. In it I use the Dr. Hudson 185 grain bullet with 11 grains of #2400 powder. It is wonderful fun to shoot and gives the best modern guns hot competition in off-hand shooting. If you can find a good Hi-Wall action with a bushed firing pin you can have it barreled to any rimmed caliber.

The venerable .30-30 can be given new life in the strong Hi-Wall action by using 150 grain spitzer bullets and loading up to 2,400 per second. The .30-40 can also be made to give very respectable ballistics by seating the bullets well out and stepping up pressures to the 45,000 pounds-per-square inch level. Mostly, though, they are barreled to wild-cat calibers such as the .219 Donaldson Wasp, .219 Improved Zipper, or .25 calibers on .30-40 brass.

All of the large stock manufactures have inletted blanks for the Hi-Wall action with the right-handed cheek pieces. For the same money you will get much more beautiful wood in these two-piece jobs than you would in a one-piece stock.

Other single-shot actions liked by left-

handers are suitable for rebarreling to modern high intensity cartridges. Among the best are the Farquharson, the Hauck (which is being made in West Arlington, Vermont), the discontinued Stevens \$44½, the Sharps Borchardt, and the Remington Hepburn. All of the older actions should be carefully checked by a competent gunsmith and the firing pin re-bushed if necessary. Some Martini actions are not as good a choice because of their long, springy breech-block.

One source of serviceable left-handed rifles where economy is a first consideration is the military straight-pull bolt action rifle. Both the Ross and the Schmidt-Rubin can be readily converted to left-handed use simply by running a flat steel strap over the top of the receiver and putting the handle on the left side. In the case of the Ross it is best to choose the model that has two lugs on the bolt and not the interrupted thread. It is much stronger and safer.

The Austrian Steyr Mannlichers have also attracted interest among left-hand shooters. I know one man who has a Model 95 Steyr with a BAR .30-06 barrel on it, and an Enfield bolt handle brazed to the left side of the bolt sleeve. It is stocked in a war-surplus Springfield stock and attracts considerable attention when he brings it to the range.

Unfortunately, the Steyr cannot be modified easily to use a Springfield magazine, so the conversion is incomplete.

A better bet for modification than the Austrian or Hungarian Steyr rifles is the Swiss Model '95 short Mannlicher mountain or cavalry carbine. The short action is suitable only for cartridges such as the .243 or other in-between-length rounds. It has an advantage in that the shortness prevents the bolt from cramping when it is worked left-handed with a new bolt handle attached. Both Steyr and Swiss Mannlichers are major gunsmithing jobs to convert but so is any left-hand repeating rifle.

The left-hander has no need to malign the Model 99 Savage, the Winchester 88, or the venerable lever action repeaters. They are all good rifles in their class. They are all fine values for the money and can all be made to do a good job of shooting under the conditions for which they are adapted. But a million shooters are left-handed, and ripe to give house room to accurate repeating rifles made specially for their use. The southpaw who likes to shoot all year round, just as his right-handed friends do, wants the best equipment possible. Right now there is not much to choose from among rifles for the forgotten man of the shooting world.

SHOTGUNNING IS A FAMILY SPORT

(Continued from page 33)

nition. Then, as the youngster grows higger, the original longer stock can be put back and fitted to his new height and reach.

Certainly there are a few problems that arise. The wife who first goes out shooting with her husband complains of the noise. A little cotton in the ears can remedy this problem very readily. Then, too, there is nothing quite as helpful in some marriages as not having husband and wife hear all the remarks addressed by one to the other. Stopping the shotgun blast with cotton may eliminate trouble other than mere noise!

Another advantage to using ear stoppers in shotgunning is that occasionally after a missed target or a lost bird in the field, a few choice words are dropped by the shooter who has just missed. Most of the time, these heartfelt but impolite remarks are drowned out by the noise of the other shooters letting off their guns; ear plugs take care of the times when this doesn't happen. For the husband with an expansive vocabulary, this may be of very real help.

The "battle of the sexes" is a trite cliche, but in shotgunning it has the reality of friendly rivalry. Women, boys, girls, and men can compete in what is truly a game, and in which all may have a chance to win. Yet none wins at the expense of another.

While most women still shy away from walking the fields in pursuit of upland birds, or rising before the crack of dawn to shiver in the duck blind, hunting together is an American tradition for father and son. And where a common interest does tie them together almost as equals and certainly as friends, there are very few cases of juvenile delinquency.

The family spirit in shotgunning is brought out most strongly when father and son go afield or compete together—sometimes against each other—in registered events.

Close family feeling combined with a sense of responsibility and safety unusual for young boys is found in two shooting families of Chicago. Safety and fun are the main reasons why Tommy Foreman enjoys shooting with his dad, Edward Foreman; and Bobby Schuehle has earned top honors for a subjunior while shooting with his father, Al. Safety is one strong reason why both fathers wanted their sons to learn how to shoot.

"When I was little," Al told us, "I killed the family cat. My father often went hunting but he was of the 'old school' and didn't believe in a boy learning to shoot when he was young. I always wanted to play with the guns but was constantly told not to touch them. But one day I picked up a gun, one of the 'unloaded' kind, and pointed it playfully at my mother. The gun went off and killed the cat which was sleeping curled up between her feet as she sat in her rocking chair, knitting.

"Well you can bet I got a licking for that. But as I grew up it didn't seem right to me to have guns around and yet forbid my boy to use them. I made up my mind that he would have a little better attention in the shooting game."

Al Schuehle has been shooting the shotgun for 30 years, the last three very successfully at skeet. Bobby has been shooting since he was nine. He is ten now. He can shoot as well as most men, good enough to wear the 50-straight patch, and he is waiting for the award of his 75-straight patch.

"He wins, yes, but I've tried to teach him to be a good loser as well," Al Schuehle observed philosophically. "Being a good win-



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ner and being liked by the other shooters despite the fact that you won over them is tough, especially since Bobby often shoots better than men who have been at the traps for years. But being a good loser and still ready for another try to do better is, I think, even more difficult."

Like most boys, Bobby had always wanted to learn how to shoot. His father's example started him off. "They way I look at it, shooting is an American tradition," explains Schuehle, "and I'm glad Bobby has had the chance to learn. But more than that, teaching my boy to shoot is just good, common sense. Some people say the way to stop shooting accidents is to outlaw guns. This is just foolish, no matter who says it. I've found out, learning with Bobby, that there are no such things as 'shooting accidents.' Those 'accidents' are made up of carelessness and lack of knowledge of guns. I won't say that accidents can't happen-they can. But 'accidents' like mine when I shot our cat with an 'unloaded' gun wouldn't happen had I been properly taught. One of the very first things Bobby ever learned about guns was how to check them and see whether they are loaded."

Safety is important to the Schuehles, but both shoot because it is fun. Because it is fun, Bobby takes to it naturally. "If I told him he couldn't handle a gun until he was 21, Bobby would get in trouble from his curiosity sooner or later," Al Schuehle said. "Learning about guns and gun safety is all part of a boy's growing up.

"There is a curious thing about shooting for children. It doesn't look like a great deal of work, but raising a seven-pound shotgun a hundred or more times in a row is work, and absorbing the kick of a 12 gauge shotgun all day long takes a lot out of a man. When a 70-pound boy holds up the 12 gauger he takes a real beating. But Bobby knows how to stand and he uses a Model 58 Remington 12 gauge skeet gun that seems to have less kick than some others. There is more to exercise than getting muscle-bound. Skeet shooting lets Bobby 'blow off steam.' A small boy has a tremendous amount of nervous energy, but Bobby settles down at the traps. Shooting helps him channel and control his

"As a result, Bobby never plays with guns at home. He knows what guns are, and that they aren't toys. He plays cowboys and Indians with the other kids whose fathers don't go shooting, but he knows that real guns are used only on the range. And when he is at the range, I'm there too, supervising what he is doing, and how he does it.'

Edward Foreman and his 13-year-old-skeetchamp son, Tommy, often go shooting together. "Safety is the keynote of Tommy's shooting experience," Ed Foreman told us one day at the Lincoln Park traps. "He's at that 'gun crazy' age now, but ever since he was six he has been shown how to handle guns safely."

At that moment Tommy was up on the line. The wind was blowing briskly from the lake and the birds drifted in an unpredictable manner, but Tommy had broken 17 straight and was still going strong. With the voice of a man who is proud of his son, Ed remarked, "He qualified for his 'Shooting Star' patch by winning the junior division of the Chicago Grand Championship a couple of

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months ago, and Winchester is sending him his 50-straight patch."

Tommy finished his round-dropped one for 24 x 25-and walked over to us, a wisp of smoke trickling from the open breech of his Browning over-under broken across his arm. He wore a shy smile which was a mixture of shame at having missed one and pleasure at hitting 24. "It's a lot different from shooting crows, Dad," he exclaimed.

"We were crow shooting last month at a big meet north of here," Ed explained. "We belong to a club which holds organized crow shoots. The trick is partly shooting and partly in calling the crows. Most of the hunters use mechanical crow calls. We had a nice little walk in the country and nearly squawked our heads off, but didn't drop a bird."

Tommy, Ed Foreman told us, often goes out alone after crows. Long ago he proved his ability to handle guns safely and neither Ed nor Mrs. Foreman have any fears of accidents. "Sometimes when we are crow shooting I can hear Tommy 'talking' to the birds, but usually he is too far away. But I don't worry and neither does my wife. She knows that shooting is one of his main interests, and that he is able to handle himself and his guns safely.

"He doesn't always come back with crows," Ed Foreman continued, "but he has a lot of fun. And because I enjoy shooting so much, we see more of each other than many parents see of their children. Except for his shooting, he's just another normal teen-ager. But maybe I should say that because of his shooting, he's just a normal kid. This teenage trouble stuff seems too childish to him."

A hobby which can be appreciated by several members of the family is wonderful, and it seems that shotgunning is pre-eminent in this. Not only is shooting at targets the family sport, but more and more hunting clubs are offering accommodations where wives can stay.

Luxury vacations are another part of shotgunning as a family sport. Those precious two weeks out of every year should be spent with the family. If father disappears into the wilderness for a fortnight, his wife feels slighted. But if, instead, they combine their fun by visiting one of the many resort hotels which offer skeet and trap shooting along with riding, boating, swimming, and other sports, they can really enjoy a family vacation. At Sun Valley, Idaho, shotgunning almost rivals skiing for popularity. At the Greenbrier in West Virginia's green hills, shotgunning is a major recreation. At the beautiful Pinehurst Hotel in the Carolinas where Annie Oakley once showed the ladies (and men, too) how to handle a shotgun. skeet and trap are famous attractions. Certainly a "shooting holiday" is worth considering among choices of where to take the family on vacation.

Alexander Wolcott's quip that "Everything I like to do is either immoral, illegal, or fattening," is too true about many leisure-time amusements to be funny, but shotgunning is different. The fact that the whole family can take part in it is one factor making it so important as a character builder, so pleasant and companionable, and still so healthy a past-time in modern living. There are few things that can check with all these points, but shotgunning as the family sport is certainly high on the list.



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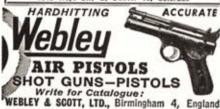
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IS THE SINGLE ACTION THE PERFECT REVOLVER?

(Continued from page 39)

not been highly valued by a lot of people, the old Frontier pattern would not have survived the "death sentence" pronounced on it in 1941 when Colt, its own maker, discontinued its manufacture-and certainly it would not have been revived later, not only by Colt but by other manufacturers. The current success of the fine Ruger line of Frontier-patterned Single Actions in calibers from .22 up to the mighty .44 Magnum prove beyond any doubt the wide popularity of this type revolver.

The case against the Single Action was made by the target shooters who had the field of gun writing pretty well cornered in the 30 years prior to about 1940. These people were honest within their lights. Improved sights for pistols, and improved precision in manufacturing processes, produced new concepts of handgun accuracy. Naturally enough, the target shooters concentrated on this feature. Regrettably, many of them were blind to other handgun virtues, some of which far outweigh pinpoint accuracy when it comes to sport and combat shooting.

One charge made against the Single Action was that it was unreliable and subject to breakdowns, that it was "the gunsmith's friend." Oldtimers who toted it for years tell a different story. And if it did go frequently to the gunsmith, small wonder. The "hawglaig" of the frontier west was no pampered lapdog; it was used to drive nails, stretch barbed wire, stir coffee, and (with a rock as a hammer behind its pointed firing pin) to punch holes in tough leather.

A second charge made against the Single Action was that it wasn't accurate. It didn't take pinpoint accuracy to hit a tall bowlegged man at ten paces. But those of us who have put better sights and better ammunition on and into old Single Actions know that they will shoot better than a man can hold them, even at paper targets. What the target boys failed to say was that comparing a fancy target pistol to the old Single Action was like comparing a de luxe sedan to a battle jeep.

Let's look at some of the virtues of the Single Action. One such virtue, on the mechanical side, is the way the cylinder is hung on a large base pin solidly anchored fore and aft to the frame. Single Action cylinders do not get out of line.

Horsemen of the old West loved the Single Action because it could not be fired unless manually cocked. If a man took a shot at a coyote and his horse decided to take that as a signal for some plain and fancy bucking, the gun was in no danger of being discharged accidentally. It could even be used as a "persuader" between the bronc's ears.

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Absorbing recoil is another virtue of the Single Action. Of course, as long as one uses .22 rim-fires or squib-loaded .38 target ammunition, recoil is no major problem. But it gets to be a problem when the combat shooter steps up to .45 Colt, .357 Magnum, and .44 Magnum man-stoppers-and the Single Action design handles recoil better than any other handgun pattern. It rolls up and back, yes; but its line of recoil is high, less jolting than with the double action or automatic.

The Single Action has other virtues singularly its own. It "points" more nearly where the shooter looks than any other handgun. For that we can thank Sam Colt, whose ideas about gun design were strictly utilitarian. This characteristic of "pointing" naturally in the shooter's hand is much appreciated by men who sometimes need a well-placed bullet when sights are useless.

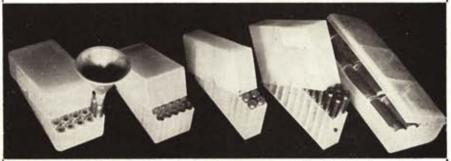
The Single Action has a heavy hammer and a long hammer-throw which pops primers with certainty and uniformity.

The Single Action's trigger has nothing to do but trip the hammer. Consequently it can be and is positioned better for the average finger. This trigger position, combined with the shape of the grip, makes the Single Action "fit" hands of all shapes and sizes better than any other handgun.

Many unpleasant things have been written about the slowness of getting empties out of a Single Action. But the outdoorsman does most of his shooting one shot at a time-at a rattlesnake, at a horse with a broken leg. or at a jackrabbit for practice and the hell of it. It is simpler, faster, and easier to punch one shell, or two or three, out of a Single Action and reload those individual chambers, than it is to do likewise with any break-top or swing-out revolver. In a gun fight, a Single Action can be kept fully loaded, loading one or more shots at a time during any break in the action, without ever being unready for a quick shot. There is no danger of a loaded hull slipping under the extractor; and if an empty gets anchored in a chamber, it does not block the use of the other five chambers.

Any kind of a breakdown in a double action or automatic puts the gun entirely out of action. Not so with the Single Action. It

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can be fired as long as there is a firing pin, chamber, and barrel in line. It could even do without the barrel. If the sear breaks, the gun can be slip-hammered: fired by letting the hammer drop forward onto the primer. If the hammer spring breaks, you can still fire it by wrapping a rubber hand around the front of the frame and behind the hammer; or the hammer can be left down and hit with a rock.

This ability to keep on shooting with a crippled gun may not sound important to the sheltered shooter, but it can make a whale of a difference. Some years ago an Alaskan trapper was killed by wolves after his double action revolver busted a mainspring. With a Single Action, he could still have fired the occasional shots needed to keep the wolves at a respectful distance.

It all goes back to where we started. The target shooters and the Single Action men are talking about two different conditions—like a desert Arab and a Burmese mahout arguing about camels and elephants as saddle mounts,

Unfortunately, Single Actions must be charged with two debits. The worst of these is that, to be absolutely safe, they must be carried with an empty chamber under the hammer. That is the way they are carried by all old Single Action gunnies. Double action revolvers have a trigger-actuated bar that moves up between the hammer and the frame when the hammer is down and the trigger released. This is a real safety feature and a score on the side of the double action. The Single Action has no such device. It does have a quarter-cock "carrying" notch. This notch is safe if nothing happens. But if the gun falls out of the holster and the hammer bumps a rock just so, or if something strikes the hammer hard enough, the Single Action will fire. Always carry the Single Action as a five-shooter, with the empty chamber under the hammer. It is better to be safe than sorry.

The second fault is that, short of removing the cylinder from the gun, the only way to make sure the Single Action isn't loaded is to set it at half-cock, drop the loading gate, and revolve the cylinder until one is dead certain he has looked through all the chambers. The ease with which the cylinder may be removed is a partial compensation for this inconvenience. It makes the Single Action the easiest of all revolvers to clean.

When it comes to speed of fire, the Single Action can be just as fast on the quick-draw first shot as any handgun. Cocked as it comes out of the leather, it is ready to talk as soon as it levels with the target. Double actions and automatics will fire succeeding shots faster than the Single Action.

Due probably to moving pictures and television, there is more interest just now in the quick-draw angles of handgun shooting than there has been since Wild Bill Hickok cashed in his chips at Deadwood. The average shooter won't need quick draw once in a lifetime. On the other hand, men who lead strenuous outdoor lives, work or play, may live a lot longer if they know how to get a gun clear and put a killing slug into a target in a hurry. The only way to develop that kind of skill is practice; and there are right and wrong ways to practice.

In the first place, begin quick-draw practice with an empty gun. Drop the hand on the gun with the thumb on the hammer, the trigger finger straight (paralleling the long axis of the gun), the second two fingers under the grip, and the little finger at the base of the grip. Do not insert the trigger finger in the trigger guard until the gun muzzle is out of the holster. Do not let go of the hammer until the gun starts up toward the target. Take it slow at first and do not permit yourself to vary from this procedure. Speed will come with practice. The more practice the more speed.

When you think you have perfected the procedure, try it with a loaded gun. Slow down again until you have full confidence in your ability to get the gun pointed away from yourself before you release the hammer or hit the trigger. Never put speed before absolute control. The split-second draw is dangerous unless practiced correctly and endlessly.

There is a curious psychological fact about men who carry and use pistols over long periods of time. In an emergency all their subconscious gun sabe and skill comes to their gun hand without conscious volition.

A hydrophobia coyote jumped at Andy Allen from a high ledge. Andy dodged and put three slugs through it in midair. A huge rattlesnake, face high on a cutbank, had its mind made up to strike at Herbert Bradley. It struck and hit him at the belt buckle but lost its head on the way. Another friend, caught under a clumsy horse, was charged at twenty feet by a fear-crazed range cow. A 45 bullet dead centered her forehead and she died touching the horse.

Such shots are called lucky. They are more than that. They are the unthinking, automatic reaction of a life long gun packer. They are the ultimate in gun speed and accuracy; and far more effective than any one can possibly do with his top-side mind.

The Single Action is one of the great guns of all time. And the new ones add luster to the old. I wish I could have had a Blackhawk .44 Magnum in the days when I was squabbling with wolves over who owned my lambs—or when bears were offering to shake my hand in the Alaskan bush. I'd have felt (and been!) a lot safer.

HUNTING KING OF THE ORIENT

(Continued from page 35)

next six months.

There is also Don Jaime Stuart Mitjans, Count of Teba in Spain, many times winner of the classic live-bird championship of the world, who kills an average of 6,000 partridges every year. He is one of the greatest wing shots the sport has ever known. More than once, I have seen him kill two chukar, then accept a second gun and fold a third bird before the first one struck the ground. That's gunning!

Then, too, there was my own Old Man, Major Charles Askins. During the 40 years we rubbed shoulders, he killed some kind of game every day. He knew more about shotgunning than any other writer of his time; and small wonder that he did, for the weapon was seldom out of his hands.

Ngo Van Chi is an Oriental hunter who rates a place alongside the men I have mentioned. Chi hunts 52 weeks a year, every year—not for woodchuck, cottontail, or squirrel but for elephant, gaur, tiger, and buffalo. During a year, any year, this Vietnamese will kill more big game than most men ever point a gun at in the course of a lifetime.

For instance—during the few weeks I have known Ngo Van Chi here in old French Indo China, he has upended three tuskers, seven gaur, two banteng, nine sambar deer, four tiger—and just last evening he dropped in from his hunting camp some 200 miles north of where I'm writing this and unrolled the pelt of the first Asian bear I have seen.

This man is not a professional hunter, not a guide, does not shoot for meat or ivory. He is a wealthy man, former owner of 17 theaters from Hong Kong to Bangkok. He sold the theaters to devote his time to the chase. He shoots for sport only, for love of the game. But in point of days afield, game brought to bag, and an abiding enthusiasm for the hunt, Chi ranks with the great ones.

Chi and I came together by prearrangement in a remote Moi village. Night was only a pistol-shot above the giant Dao trees when I found his camp and went sloshing down the slope through the mud to meet Chi in the lee of a stilt-legged coo grass shack.

"I glad you come," he said simply, extending his hand. "We make good hunt, I think."

Here was no inscrutable Dr. Fu Manchu. The eyes behind the smile lighted with genuine pleasure. Slightly over average height, he has an unlined Oriental face, a face that atterly fails to reflect its half-century of use. The eyes are full of humor, intelligent and penetrating. The slicker engulfed the slight figure that evening when we met, but beneath

its folds there was nothing save whalebone and sinew—as I was to be made to realize during the days that followed. Each day, for ten, twelve, fourteen hours, my host set the pace, and if the march wore him down I saw no signs of it. His pace never slackened.

Introductions aside, I waved Chi to my tent, poured a middlin' hefty libation of tonic made famous by some of my Scottish fore-bearers. He smilingly declined. He is a tectotaler. No rum; no tobacco. But Mister Chi does not entirely deny himself. He has two wives and 16 offspring, all under the same roof. He once had 12 women, but reduced the harem to reserve more time for his shooting through the length of the Indo-China peninsula.

There probably is more game to be found in Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos, the Associated States of the Indo-Chinese peninsula, than in any other region of like size in all the vastness that is Asia. But it cannot he hunted like you shoo up antelope in Wyoming. The game migrates with the seasons, into the lowlands during the dry period, back to the plateau during the monsoon. The Moi, the hill people who live on the central plateau in mountains ranging up to 6,000 feet, follow the game and know at all times where it can be found.

Chi has an intelligence organization among the Moi that would do credit to the British MI-5 at its best. In every village he has agents. These in turn have scouts, trackers, and reconnaissance patrols.

Let a band of tuskers commence a drift from Dron Tho toward Tche Reou and Chi will get almost daily briefing on its whereabouts. Runners sometimes travel two days and nights to reach his villa. At any time, he can tell you precisely what area to enter to gun down elephant, gaur, or tiger. It is a fantastic network, lethal as a spring gun, and, I believe, wholly the property of Ngo Van Chi.

What manner of coin he deals in to pay this legion of agents, I do not profess to know. However, I do know that Chi wages a relentless, no-quarter war against the Moi's Public Enemy No. 1, old "Ong Ba-mui," the tiger. With trap and gun, by bait, and from mirador atop hunting elephants, with traps and rifles which he has placed in the hands of the hill people and tribesmen, as well as by hunting them himself, Chi kills several hundred of these big cats annually.

His shooting of other species also adds measurably to the economy of the Moi. Armed with nothing more lethal than a crossbow and spear, the savage can scarcely cope with the crusty old gaur who may range up to 3,000 pounds, nor with buffalo scaling almost a ton, nor with banteng at half that weight. But let Chi come into the country and, between his deadly .375 Model 70 and his insatiable appetite for taking a trophy every day, the Moi for kilometers around live high off the hog. One day hunting with Chi, I saw a sizeable band of Moi fall to on an elephant carcass and, 24 hours later when we returned, the bones were stripped clean. The meat that falls before Chi's deadly guns is not wasted!

Over the years, Chi has gathered about him a tight little crew of first-water trackers. The "So Mot" No. 1 is Kim. Kim is his prize elephant spoorer. He knows better, says

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WONDERSIGHT

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Chi, what the elephant will do than does the elephant. Kim is now 55, looks two decades younger, is much given to rice alcohol, filthy native tobacco, and betel nut.

Hunting with Kim, you can never be sure whether you will go 25 kilometers that day or barely get beyond gun-sound of camp. The other week, with Kim in the lead, we were cutting sign for gaur. After a couple of hours of steady climbing we had broken into a beautiful meadow, chest high in the inevitable coo grass.

The Moi broke off a great handful of the grass that showed it had been cropped very recently by the bovines we sought. After a brief moment's study he threw it down and, without a word to his master, ambled over to the shade of a tree, knocked a few leeches off his scarred hocks, and made ready for sleep.

Even Chi was momentarily taken aback. But after a talk with Kim, the situation was clarified. "Gaur here at daylight," Chi told me. "Kim say now in bamboo. No use hunt, We stay here. When sun cools, we hunt again." And there we squatted for six full hours, fighting leeches and batting mosquitos. During the shank of the day we again took up the hunt and in a brace of hours Kim put us within pistol distance of an old "solitaire." That he escaped was no fault of

When casting for sign, Chi will arbitrarily designate the direction of advance and so order his trackers. But once the spoor is struck and his bloodhounds get down to business, he meekly submits to the often brusquely whispered commands of his tracker, Kim.

Nam, Chi's No. 2 tracker, is just as skilled as Kim, to my notion, but does not rate as high in the esteem of the master. Nam is more flexible, more intelligent, thinks faster in a tight spot, and I'd rather have him with me than Kim. He is a first-rate marksman and has yet to show the taint of fear. Kim, I have not tested in the tight spots yet. While he may stand hitched, the old savage is somewhat more than a little loco. He has a habit of talking constantly. If he can get someone to listen he talks to them, if not he talks to himself. Nothing quells his monologue for more than short minutes.

Finally there is Nhon, a squat little gorilla who is unsurpassed at tracking and taking banteng. Nhon has a deeper sabe of the country along the game-rife Da-Dung than any other of Chi's ragged crew. He holds to a deep professional pride and takes it as a team victory when his hunter draws blood; is crestfallen and gloomy if he cannot fetch his man to gun range. And gun range, to Nhon, is something about the length of a West Texan's throw-rope.

When spooring elephant, Chi is the very embodiment of the relaxed sportsman. He rarely hunts alone. He throws Kim out on point and, ranging behind or on the flanks, are Nam and Nhon. At his side he keeps his gun bearer. Behind them may come three or four skinners and packers. Chi is a firm believer in the potency of the .375 Magnum and has a brace of these Winchesters. Regardless of how warm the sign may grow he never condescends to tote the rifle until the last critical moments of the chase. Then he will accept the rifle and close in for the kill.

He has in addition to the two Model 70's an old Mauser 10.75 mm, which despite a

lot of mileage remains in apple pie order. This gun more often than not is in the hands of Kim or Nam as a sort of safety factor. Chi tells me he also has a double express rifle, a .416 Rigby made by Victor Sarasqueta of Eibar. He does not use the weapon because of lack of cartridges.

Ammunition is a very critical problem in Indo China. Importation is impossible and cartridges when found cost an average of 70 cents each.

Two weeks ago I sat in Chi's house awaiting dinner and he told me he had just dropped a huge tusker the day before. "I have five cartridge my .375. No more. I track hull long time. I say myself, you can shoot only once. I do. I kill bull one shot. Have four cartridge left." He was going hunting again the first of the week with a sum total of four shells.

Crowding the spoorers as I do, I have more than once glanced back to observe the impassive Chi trudging effortlessly along, his arms folded serenely across his chest, appearing for all the world like an old Manderin scholar strolling in his garden. It is a bit startling at first, recollecting as you must that this is an hombre up to his neck in an elephant shikar; but the longer you know this remarkable Oriental, the less odd it seems.

Chi has many friends among the Americanos here. None are held in higher esteem than his amigo Pope. A. L. Pope, grandson of old Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker we have ever known, is a real second-generation chip off the old block. A dead ringer for the cinema hotrock, Burt Lancaster, Pope is a plane jockey for General Claire Chennault of Fying Tiger fame. During his spare weekends, Pope seldom fails to join Chi on a hunt, and the two account for an astounding amount of game.

Pope flew in Korea for the U.S. Air Force and when that fracas pinched out he signed on with Chennault to fly with his CAT airline. During the days of Dien Bien Phu when the French found themselves in as sweet a cul-de-sac as a modern military force has ever faced, CAT flew in the air drops. Pope was one of the pilots.

One of the first times I met Pope was at 3:30 one morning, so deep in the jungle that J. Edgar Hoover and a pride of bloodhounds couldn't have found us. Pope, all six feet of him, was covered with mud, water, sweat, and profanity. As I swung the lights of my jeep onto the scene, Old Harry's grandson was under a sizeable bamboo bridge, prypole in hand, busily engaged in heaving a jeep back onto the decking. A two-jeep convoy en route to join my camp had skidded the first vehicle partly off the bridge. Pope was outdoing all six Moi who were standing around watching the burly Americano heave the quarter-ton back onto the bamboo span.

Last year, Pope and Chi journeyed to the end of the line above Bon Don and there hired enough elephants to mount themselves and their entire retinue. For the two weeks that followed they seldom stepped off the pachyderms except to eat and sleep. They hunted an almost virgin game land that lies astraddle the Vietnamese-Cambodian frontier. It was such a shikar as to draw a hearty "Tot Lam"-very good even from Chi, who isn't given to bubbling over about any safari. Buffalo, gaur, banteng, and wild boar fell to

the guns of the pair, and in a single day Chi killed three tigers.

Altogether the party bagged 54 deer. With five different species to chose from, ranging from the hefty 700-pound sambar to the fivepound mouse deer, the bag on venison alone may well be a varied one.

As for the tiger, let Chi tell it.

"I went in mirador. Tiger come. I shoot. I send Kim get Moi carry tiger camp. I sit mirador once more. Here come tiger No. 2. He look at dead one. I shoot him. Kim hear, he think first tiger come 'live. When he bring Moi, have only six boy. No can carry two tiger. Must send village for six more boy. In afternoon very late come third tiger. I kill." Chi smiled broadly over the recollection of that banner day.

Afield some three or four days of every week, Chi's continual adventuring in these game lands produces its full share of tight play and lusty action. Last year, hunting buffalo all alone, he struck the track of an old bull, a "solitaire." These "solitaire" are belligerent old studs who, having done with cow-chasing, elect to trod lonely trails. Chi followed the sign and finally came abreast his game. He was shooting a double express that day and poured both barrels into the bull at 20 yards.

The buff charged. His gun empty, Chi dropped into the foot-and-one-half of water and grass, submerging himself. Nothing remained above the surface except one exceedingly short snorkel, the Chi nose.

The wounded bull stomped and snorted, searching for his tormentor. Finally, after long moments, he commenced to move out. Chi, who had lifted his head when he deemed it safe, heard the sounds of the search abating somewhat and calmly pried himself out of the muck, shook the water out of his old .416, charged it with fresh hulls and hammered two more slugs into the shoulder of the weaving target. That wound up that little adventure.

In '53, Chi killed a tiger that was the grandpap of all the cats in Indo China. This critter as he lay on the ground had the remarkable length of 13 feet 2 inches. Chi was shooting with an American at the time and gave him the pelt on the American's promise that, in return, upon his rotation to the U.S. he would ship Chi the rifle he wanted above all others, the Weatherby .375 Magnum. This was in 1953 and Chi is still awaiting the arrival of the Weatherby. Capers such as this add much to the prestige of the American sportsman abroad.

"I no like your sights. No good," Chi said abruptly one day as we waited to climb in a dugout and ferry over the out-of-banks Da-Dung.

"What's wrong with my sights?" I asked, taken aback. The micrometered rear and sourdough post front were about as hot a combination as you could find, in my opinion.

"In jungle, no good. Too slow. Here open sight best. You got to be veeery queek. Vecery queek. Light bad, game no wait. I use flat-top open sight, big bead. Bes' of all."

It was encouraging to hear someone-an authority, if you will-praise the often condemned open rear sight. And while I would not agree that my aperture wasn't just as good, the Chi contention is borne out by the experience of British and other sportsmen in Africa and Asia where the open rear is the long-odds choice.

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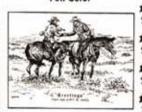
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SCHOOL FOR GUNSMITHS

(Continued from page 33)

the parlance of the trade, a complete conversion. The course of this conversion was punctuated with blood (chisels slip, y'know), sweat, tears, curses, and numerous questions directed at the harried instructor. Finally it was complete. The stock, though not exactly a Linden masterpiece, sported an egg-shell finish with not a grain left unfilled. The welded bolt handle was a trifle cockeyed, lumpy in spots, and possibly might make Roy Dunlap shudder to look at it. But I was just as proud of it as a mother is of a newborn, crosseyed baby. Even the owner thought it

As the course progresses and the student has a few classroom lectures, the value of a prior general knowledge of guns comes into its own. Although the curriculum is based on the thought of starting out from scratch. it does not stoop to the absurdity of saying, "This is a trigger. This is a magazine, etc. But a little study before entering school would preclude questions such as the following which the instructors answer daily: "What does the 70 mean in .45-70?" "What is mid-range trajectory?" "What is cast-off in a stock?'

The questions may seem ridiculous to some, but they are typical of those asked by the average gun-store customer, and the student must prepare himself to answer as many as possible.

While my general knowledge smoothed the path in phases of the course pertaining to guns alone such as stockmaking, ballistics, history and use of firearms, design and function, I experienced a vacuity of the cranium when first grappling with the machine-shop courses. Lathe, milling machine, oxy-acetylene welding, and blueprint reading were total strangers. I remember one instance in lathe lecture class when the instructor, Bud Svenson, just finished explaining an elementary step in lathe operation. There was a slight pause, as if to give the students an opportunity to ask questions. I racked my brain for a question, any question at alleither sensible or otherwise-but couldn't come up with one. I didn't know enough about the subject to ask a question! It was akin to confronting an illiterate fresh from the boondocks with the ins and outs of a dictionary.

In due time, a lathe ceased to be a deep mystery. Before a student gets to actual gun work, he must do his share of practice work on the cheaper cold-rolled steel. The operation of the lathe must become as subconscious and effortless as Liberace pounding the grand, leaving the concious mind free to concentrate on the job at hand.

Rebarreling, and set-backs to correct headspace, are one of the major jobs for the gunsmith's lathe. Mauser barrels, due to their simplicity in lack of extractor and case-head recesses, are usually the latheman's first cut in this category. Machine-gun barrels of .30 caliber are so inexpensive and efficient that they are used often in rebarreling, and students get contouring experience turning these oversize tubes to shoulder-arm weight.

Action and barrel making are not included in the course. These specialized fields require an outlay of thousands of dollars for tools and equipment. Large firms already in the business seem to be taking care of the demand quite well.

Stockmaking (500 hours benchwork and 10 hours classroom) comprises a vital segment of learning. In any field of endeavor, a thorough knowledge of the skeleton leads to a more perfect understanding of the skin. Considerable know-how is required even to complete semi-inlets as offered by stockmaking firms. When their advertisements advise, "See your gunsmith," it is wise to take heed, not take chisel in hand.

Before stocking either a shotgun or rifle in walnut, students are required first to do the job in gumwood. A Mauser is usually the first rifle stocked, using standard Winchester 70 or Remington 721 stock dimensions, followed by a Springfield and an Enfield stocked to the customer's specifications. A Winchester 12 or 97 is usually the first shotgun handle made. Then follows the more difficult box and sidelock double stocks. A set of revolver or auto pistol grips, either standard or custom, is also required. Thereafter, the student may specialize in making the stocks most likely to be used in the locality where he plans to work.

After the accepted requisites of fit, bearing points, and balance have been built into the stock, there remains that angle of stocking that depends purely on the maker's imagination and taste. A curve here, a fillet there, a well-executed inlay, create a flawless finish that spells the difference between a thing of beauty or a chunk of firewood. Metal work has the final judge of its excellence in the micrometer or some other measuring device. But, in stockmaking, customer satisfaction is perhaps the only micrometer with which to measure the dimensions of aesthetics. Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder and the beholder is paying the bill.

Ballistics and handloading come in for 30 hours of combined classroom instruction, with 12 hours time at the loading bench although most students put in more hours than this. Jackrabbit shooting can eat up a lot of ammo. The handloading lecture contains as many don't's as do's. Correct loading procedure and numerous safety factors are stressed and re-stressed. When John Q. Citizen starts pouring powder into the brass and slapping a slug on top of it, he's not fortunate enough to have the many assembly controls constantly at work in a factory to keep the ammo safe and dependable. His first inkling that he's thrown a double charge with some powders is, alas, a blinding flash.

Coincidental with my attendance in handloading class was an unfortunate occurrence that confirmed the saying, "one picture is worth a thousand words." We filed into the classroom one night, and noted with a shock that a visual training aid had been added to the curriculum. Lying on the instructor's desk, like a mangled corpse, was what was left of a Winchester Model 70. It, and the remaining batch of handloads that had been used that day, had been brought into school by a local citizen for study and analysis. The case head had ruptured and released the hot, potent gasses rearward, splitting the receiver ring. The locking lugs and bolt were fused with molten brass. The forearm was shattered and bloodstained. A subsequent disassembly of the ammunition revealed maximum charges of 2400 powder in all but one of the cases; it contained a double charge. Pure poison!

Design & Function rightfully claims the lion's share, 65 hours, of lecture subjects for a total of 345 hours. Over 60 current and obsolete models that the gunsmith is most likely to receive in his shop are stripped and explained by the design specialists, Glenn English and Kenneth Aiken. Mimeographed sheets are supplied showing stripping instructions, those left-hand screws, common malfunctions, calibers, weight, heat treatment of serial categories, and other important data. The more simple, self-explanatory-onsight arms like single-barreled shotguns and single-shot bolt-actions are not dealt with in lecture, but should a student get stumped while working on one of these at his bench, the instructor is available. The complexity of the various actions are reflected by the hours of shopwork listed in the curriculum: pumps and autoloaders, 200 hours each: bolt actions and doubles, 160 and 150 respectively; lever actions, 150; revolvers, 100; and single shotguns, 30.

Curious, I checked up to see how many different types and models of guns are offered currently in the market. I quit counting at 100. The number of current and obsolete arms in use today, of all makes, is something to shake the imagination. To this number, tack on the antiques. They all have the same basic principle of operation, but so do automobiles. No one could rightfully expect an auto mechanic to know all about every make and model produced since the Model T, yet it is a common thing for a customer to expect comparable knowledge from a gunsmith. If the gunsmith has been at his trade for around 80 of his 100 years, he might have most of the answers at his fingertips.

A student may either work on his own weapons or those of the customers. For a small registration fee and by paying the cost of materials, customers may get just about anything done at the school from a simple cleaning job to a complete conversion. It is through these customer contacts that the student gunsmith learns the do's and the don't's of the trade in a business and public relations sense.

Colorado's class in business training (30 hours) deals with all phases of establishing a shop, cost of materials and sources, determining a location. The instruction includes

a suggested price list for gunsmith jobs, and discussion on a vital angle that has nothing to do with metal or wood—extreme diplomacy. Customers' inclinations to shoot the bull for hours on end is an occupational hazard on a par with whirling lathe dogs and flying metal fragments. This customer conversation is a condition practically peculiar to the gun business alone, but a goodly percent of the gunsmith's bread and oleo stems from this interest. If it weren't for it, the trade would consist of simple use and repair, like shoes or lawnmowers.

Several years ago, I had a scope mounted on my pet squirrel rifle. I learned that the gunsmith had fired it for group out of curiosity because of the wax paper shims he'd found under the barrel.

"I hear you've been shooting my rifle," I commented on my next visit to his shop.

"Yes," he answered, "and it did very well."
"Yep, I've owned five or six .22's and that
one shoots twice as 'hard' as any one of 'em,"
I earnestly replied.

Much to his credit, he didn't bat an eye, but I thought I detected a little bewilderment in his expression. Telescope sights and barrel shims somehow just didn't fit in with this talk of "Kentucky chronography."

"I noticed that," he said very seriously.
"It is a right hard-shooting rifle."

I could contain myself no longer and my grin melted into a chuckle. He saw that I'd been pulling his leg and joined in the mirth. That man was a diplomat. He didn't fly off the handle and argue with a cash-paying customer. All of us budding gunsmiths would do well to follow his example.

Just before deer season, the school annually conducts a "clinic" at Camp George West, near Denver. Hunters are invited to sight in their rifles. Students gain valuable experience in customer relations, range procedure, and knowledge of the various types of sights. Alternately, from morning to afternoon, half work the butts and half the line. Students on the line get a little bonuspicking up the hunters' brass. They assist in sight adjustment, make minor repairs, and tender general information on weapons and ballistics.

On the line where it counts, where powder is being burned, some shooters learn that it "ain't necessarily so" that any good rifle will shoot straight if the man behind it can. After throwing slugs all over the landscape with his first string, one man commented, that his rifle hadn't been shooting right for





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THE FORSTS

Route 460, Kingston, New York ortant: All rorst Products are Gov't Insp'd のなられる a couple of years. "Could be my eyesight going bad," he said. An examination showed that his sight and guard screws were on the verge of falling out. Short work with a screwdriver corrected this supposed failing of eyesight and brought his succeeding groups into the black.

The gunsmithing course is offered to veterans and non-veterans alike. The day class (8 hours, 5 days per week) runs for 69 weeks. The night class (6 hours) lasts 92 weeks. Students are enrolled as individuals and may enter at any time. Sometimes the students are unknown. Others have some fame in the shooting game.

Señor Alberto Guererro, Olympic pistol contender in 1952 and holder of many shooting trophies, is taking a special six-month course in lathe, machine shop, design and function, and ballistics. He is specifically interested in pistols and shotguns. Regularly employed as a captain of police at San Juan, Puerto Rico, he will return to the island to advise in the repair of all law enforcement arms.

The big wheels of the gun trade recommend that any young man interested in getting into the gun business try to attend a gunsmithing school. True, there is the apprenticeship route open while working in a shop. But school training is the "forcepump" method while apprenticeship offers only "seepage." Unless the busy gun store boss has a genuine personal interest in an apprentice, he may be inclined to take the line of least resistance and assign and reassign him the simplest of jobs.

The student gunsmith has several instructors on call. Each one is a specialist according to his particular interest, as well as a general gunsmith. In school the talk is guns and hunting; with students out of school, the same. The air is so heavy with "gun humidity" that a great amount of knowledge is assimilated through the process of osmosis

What is the outlook for the gun-school graduate? The obvious course is to try to make a connection with a going, twelvemonth-a-year gunshop. If he has the capital to open his own sporting goods and gunshop, he has little to worry about except the pitfalls of any business. But beyond that, what else?

Hardware and sporting-goods stores are a vast and relatively untapped source of employment, but there is a catch to it. Just before I left home to enroll in school, I asked the proprietor of the sports shop with whom I had been dealing, "Could you use a gunsmith?"

"Perhaps," he observed. Then there was a slight pause. "But, er, what else can you do?"

That's the hitch. What are you going to do as a regular employee in those six months of off-season when the gun shop is bringing in little or no money?

Do you have the temperament and personality to sell fishing tackle, boats, motors, hardware, etc?

Can you take administrative chores off the boss's shoulders-ordering, correspondence, bookkeeping, etc.

Then, there is that last resort, should none of the above pan out. Go out on the creaking, rotten limb and establish a year-round, one-man gunshop. With practical schooling in gunsmithing and the patience of Job, you've got a chance. But it doesn't take an eagle's vision, backed by the mind of a genius, to see that this limb must be trod lightly and expertly!

exorbitant, beyond the means of most Indians.

Two pounds of powder cost a well-tanned

head-and-tail robe, and few women could tan

more than 20 robes in a season. Any kind of gun was priced from five to eight robes or

more. Even an average breech-loader would have cost around 20 head-and-tail tanned

buffalo robes or several good horses. Car-

tridges were correspondingly high, and the

supply anything but stable. For this reason

Colt and Remington percussion revolvers

were great favorites with the Indians. Each

provided six shots without reloading. The

ammunition for these arms-lead, loose pow-

der, and percussion caps-was the cheapest

form of ammunition, and the most easily obtained on the frontier. And these obsolete

arms were just as deadly on horseback-driven

buffalo as those taking cartridges. Chief

White Bull told me that he had killed more

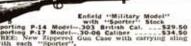
than 30 buffalo with loose ammunition used

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squaw men. Even after they obtained breechloaders and repeating rifles, they seldom used these for killing buffalo. Old Sioux hunters were quite incredulous when I told them how white hide hunters in Kansas would kill 20 to 100 buffalo at a single stand. One of them said, "Our buffalo were too wild for that. If such methods had worked, we would have used them." They said they found the bow and lance better than the musket and

Guns and ammunition were not easy to get. In the west, the Indians could not manufacture these, and the price of a gun was

the saber in mounted combat.

HOW GOOD WERE INDIANS AS SHOOTERS?

(Continued from page 23)

to fire the gun at the level before the bullet rolled out of the bore by gravity. Smoothbores were supplied to many peace-

ful tribes under treaty obligations by the Great White Father. Special lots of Kentucky-type rifles were ordered by the Indian Department. Henry Leman of Lancaster, Pa., Jacob Dickert, and others famous as "Kentucky rifle" makers received contracts to supply guns for the Indians.

The tribes also obtained some guns from the Red River half-breeds, who came from Canada in 1870 bringing muzzle-loaders, powder, lead, files, and percussion caps. My friend, Chief White Bull, purchased two of these guns, which he used for shooting deer and antelope; he considered a bow best for running buffalo.

Indians bought guns from licensed traders,

from Indian agents, agency Indians, and

in a percussion revolver. In the 1870's a good repeating rifle cost around \$25 in the east. On the frontier it would cost 10 or 15 dollars more to white men. Indians had to pay even more, and the top price for buffalo robes was never more than \$6 delivered in eastern markets. Only rich Indians could afford repeaters or buy fixed ammunition, and rich Indians were no more numerous per capita than rich white men are. There was no ordnance department to supply warriors with arms or replace a lost or broken weapon, and no gunsmiths.

Every Indian had to arm himself at his own expense. Many of them could not afford guns of any kind, and the sorriest old weapons were treasured as family heirlooms. Crudely repaired stocks and rifles without sights are common to find among Indian weapons.

After the greatest effort, only about half of Sitting Bull's warriors at the Little Big Horn were able to obtain firearms. Of these, many had only old flintlocks, condemned muskets, muzzle-loaders, smooth bores. There was plenty of propaganda claiming that the Indians were even better armed than the troops—a fantastic yarn. Ordnance reports of guns turned in when the Indians surrendered show a different set of facts.

Of 284 long guns turned in by Sioux and Chevennes in 1877, some 160 were muzzle loaders. These included 94 percussion rifles by H. E. Leman, six made by the famous Hawken brothers in St. Louis, and an assortment of Kentuckys, old Springfield and Tower rifles and muskets, and one flintlock smoothbore, possibly of the "northwest gun" pattern with dragon sideplate. While the balance were cartridge firearms, they were generally inferior to the weapons of the soldiers. Of the 124 breechloaders, but 39 were repeaters. These in six different calibers included four Henrys, 12 Winchesters, and 23 Spencers probably obtained in forays with U.S. cavalry, some of whom were equipped with the Spencer repeating carbine. Of 123 revolvers turned in, all but one were cap-andball. The condition of these weapons "would be classed as 'unserviceable' at an arsenal," stated the ordnance report.

Granted that they may have hidden some, would men armed with repeating rifles have retained the wretched old-fashioned guns that they did turn in? Those weapons were mostly so old-fashioned that they belonged in museums. The best of them were a sprinkling of Winchesters, Spencer carbines, old-fashioned Henry rifles, and Sharps dropping block breechloaders. Even the gun which a great chief, Sitting Bull, presented to his "brother" Frank Grouard was a Hawken rifle-40 years out of date.

No doubt the Indians were better armed in 1876 at the time of the Custer massacre than in 1866 when Fetterman's men were attacked, but so were the whites. Arms and ammunition were still not easy to come by on the frontier. Fixed ammunition was so hard to get that many Indians learned to save and reload and reprime empty cartridge shells. Yet their arms remained of mediocre quality, poor condition, and obsolete pattern. Other tribes had been for years just as eager to get arms as the Sioux. The Crows and Rees had the same chance to get arms from traders and needed them far more desperately, yet the government had to supply good arms to these Indians when they served as the white men's allies in plains warfare.

The men of Sitting Bull's immediate family were only passably well armed at the time Custer attacked his village on the Little Bighorn-June 25, 1876. Sitting Bull himself had a revolver, caliber .45, and a '73 Model Winchester carbine, caliber .44, center fire, with one band. His elder nephew, White Bull, who had given him these weapons, carried two filled cartridge belts and a 17-shot Winchester, possibly a long-barreled Model 1866 musket. Yet Sitting Bull's younger nephew, One Bull, had only a muzzle-loading smoothbore musket. Being anxious to distinguish himself and count a coup, and knowing that this one-shot gun would be useless in close fighting, he left it in the tipi. Instead he rode to attack Major Reno's detachment carrying only his stone-headed war club. No doubt other Indians with similar obsolete guns also preferred their traditional weapons. Sitting Bull's uncle. Four Horns, did. He went into the fight with only a bow and arrows. His cousin, Bad Soup, who sometimes visited the forts and agencies and brought guns out to the hostile camp, was himself armed with a repeater. Sitting Bull and his relatives, however, were among the best hunters and warriors, and therefore among the most prosperous of the Sioux. Certainly most Sioux families were not so well armed.

My friend, Don Rickey, of the Custer Battlefield National Monument Museum, has studied the matter of Indian armament closely. "On the Custer Battlefield," he says, "we have found several types of empty cartridge cases of other than army issue. They are mostly .50 caliber (for the Sharps, like the carbine we have that was used here by Spotted Wolf, a Cheyenne) and for other .50 arms such as the 1866, 1869 and 1870 models of the Springfield carbine and rifle, which were retired from army service by the introduction of the .45-70 Springfield in 1873-74. I have one .50 case that has been purposely altered at the primer pocket end, to enable a hostile to re-prime the cartridge with a common percussion cap-the usual method. It was originally a civilian, Berdan-primed cartridge, We also have found many .44 copper rim fire cases that would have fit either the Henry rifle or the 1866 Winchester rifle or carbine. Other dug up items include: a .58 calibre mould for the Minie type bullet used in the Civil War muzzle loaders (dug up at the site of an Indian village, Little Bighorn valley). two percussion revolvers, and an 1873 Winchester .44-40 carbine,"

In the Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum in Washington there are two guns said to have been turned in by Sitting Bull after he rode into Fort Buford on July 19, 1881, to surrender. One of these is a Model 1866 Winchester from the collection of Indian objects owned by the late Major D. H. Brotherton, the officer to whom Sitting Bull surrendered. Brotherton's own collection catalog identified it as the gun Sitting Bull surrendered to him. It has a brass frame, and the stock is decorated with brass tacks.

The other gun is a sawed-off smoothbore flintlock with the lockplate imprint "Barnett, London. 1876." This was deposited in the Museum by Major James M. Bell in 1876: he claimed that Sitting Bull turned it in at an earlier surrender.

Perhaps these two guns tell the story as well, or better, than statistics and guess-work can do. That is, that Indian armament to the last varied between the most up-to-date repeating rifles and the old smoothbore muzzle-loading weapons. But when the army used Gatling guns and Hotchkiss cannon, as at Wounded Knee, the Indian wars came swiftly to an end. The warriors could not face artillery, and a good thing, too. Man to man, too often the Indians matched the whites' firepower superiority with brains, cunning and straight shooting, and won. With the few guns they had, the Indians could shoot well.

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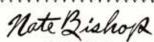
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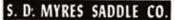
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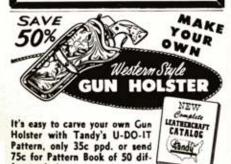
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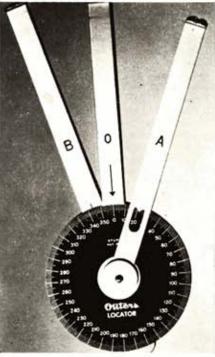
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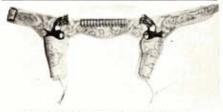


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1. 1956.
 The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Publishers' Development Corp., 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.; Editor, Ben Burns, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Ill.; Business manager, G. E. von Rosen, 8150 N. Central Park, Skokie, Illinois.
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G. E. von Rosen.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of September, 1956. Betty Lou Munson (SEAL)

(My commission expires March 10, 1958)

GUN RACK

(Continued from page 51)

fit an open folding leaf sight of standard British pattern, which has been successfully used for two centuries on dangerous African

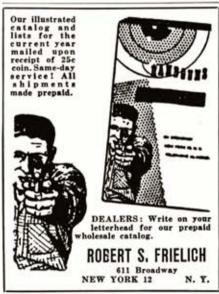
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